



PLUS: DEMON · PHANTOM LADY  
WILD DOG · SUPERMAN · HERO HOTLINE

# ACTION

COMICS® WEEKLY

NO. 637  
\$1.50  
CAN \$1.85  
U.K. 60p



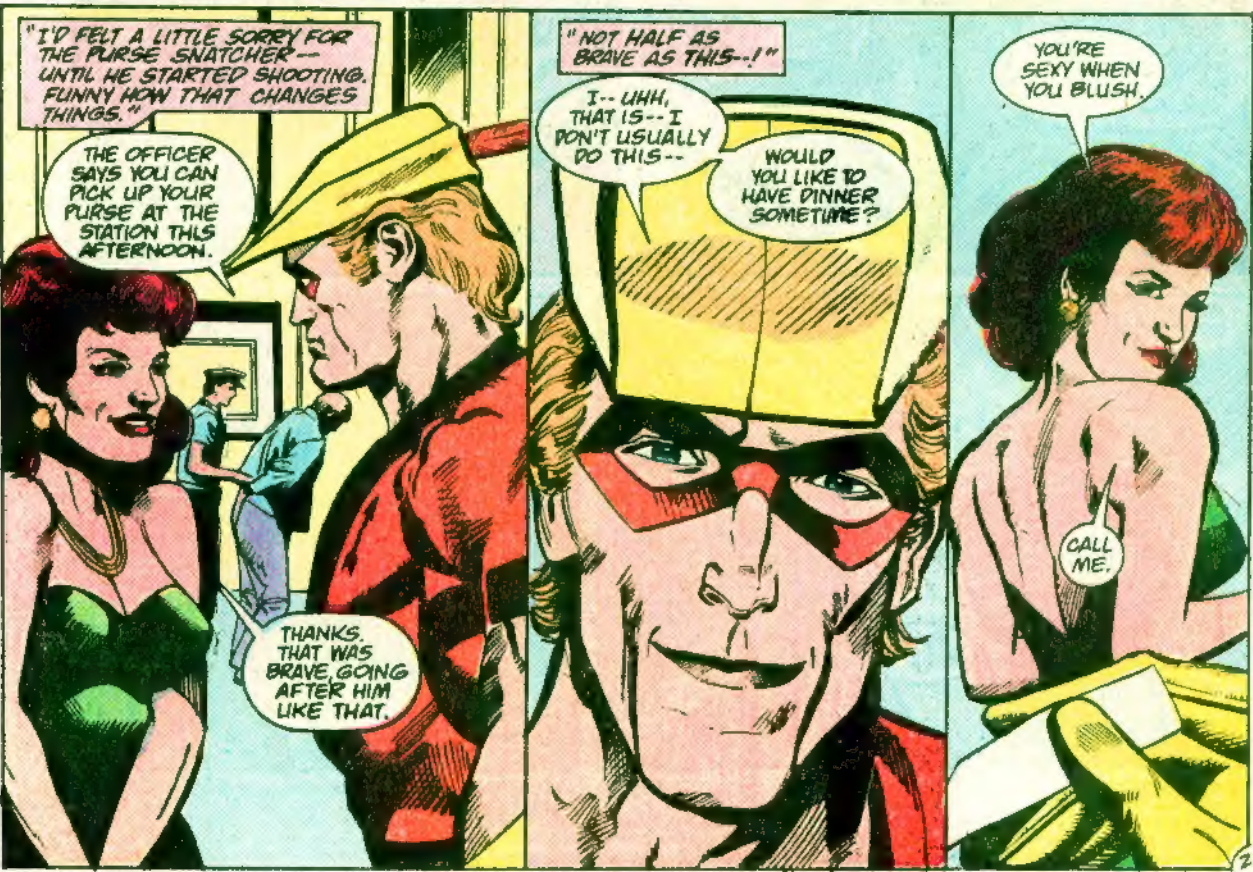
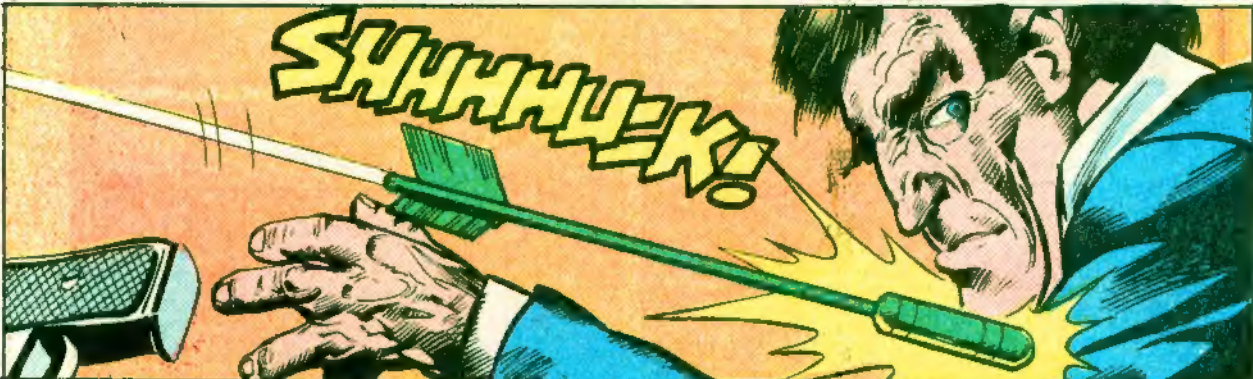
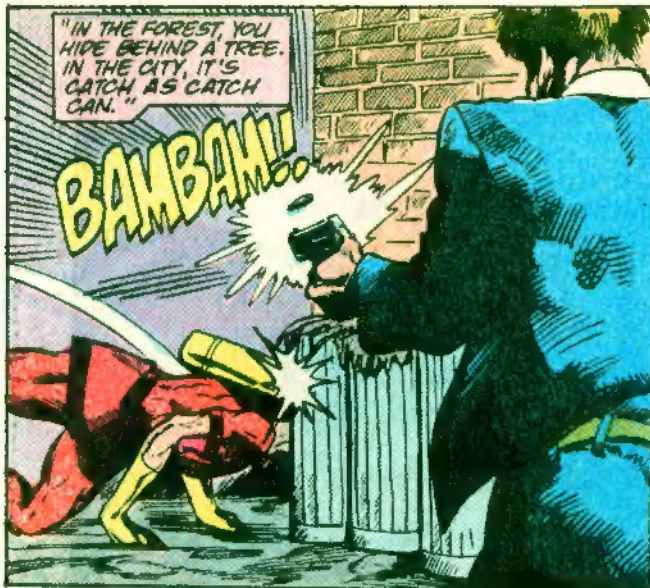
**SPEEDY™**  
see **HOLLYWOOD..**  
and **DIE!**

King









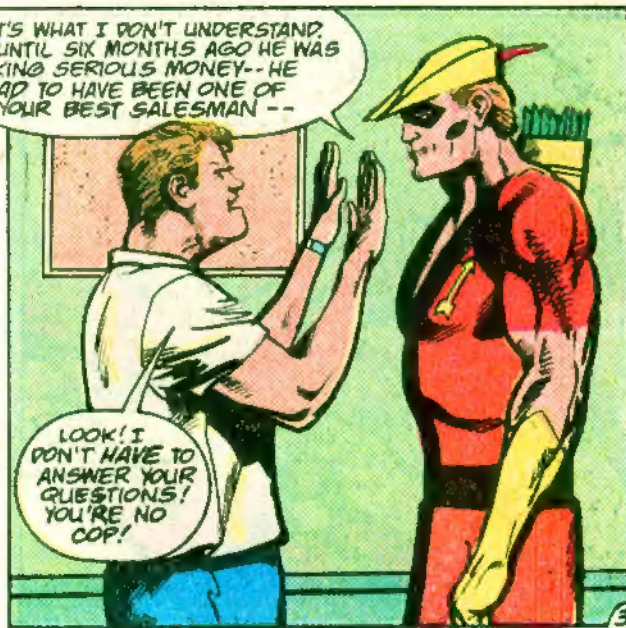
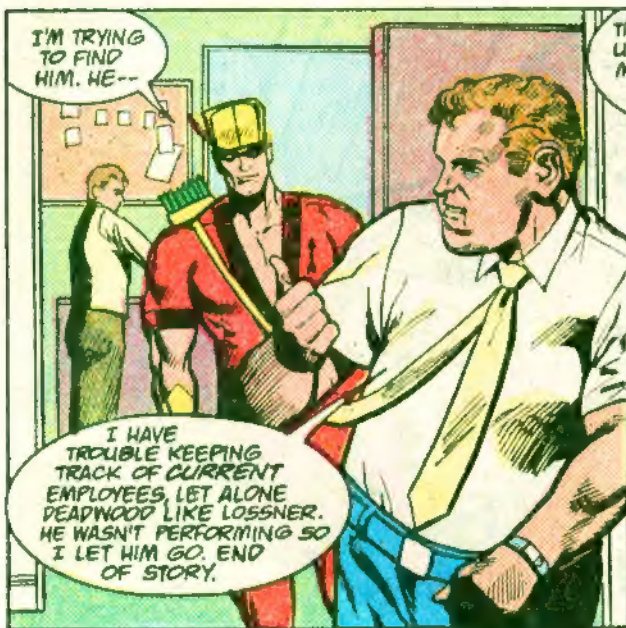
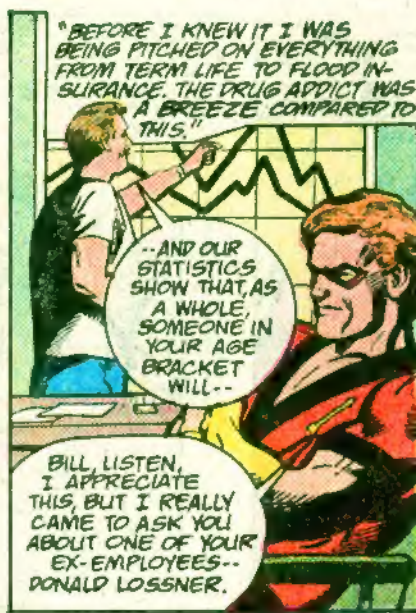


"CALL ME, 'AS SOON AS I COULD AFFORD A PHONE, I'D LOVE TO. TIME TO GET TO WORK, I WAS WORKING A MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION FOR A SHADY P.I. NAMED OWEN BURLEY."

"WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THERE'S NOTHING ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT ABOUT DETECTIVE WORK. IT'S ALL A MATTER OF ASKING QUESTIONS AND FOLLOWING LEADS."

"THE SKILL PART IS KNOWING WHICH QUESTION-- AND WHEN TO ASK IT."

"DONALD LOSSNER'S LAST JOB WAS SELLING INSURANCE OUT OF A STOREFRONT IN MONTEREY PARK-- WILLIAM 'JUST CALL ME BILL' RETTICK WAS THE OWNER/MANAGER."

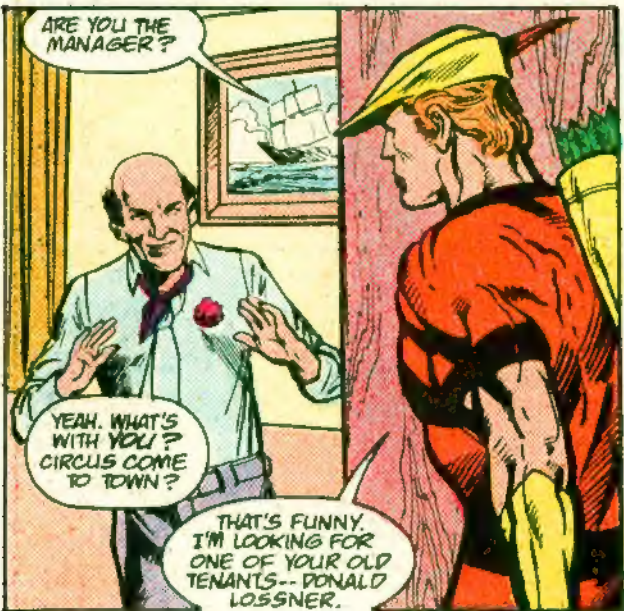
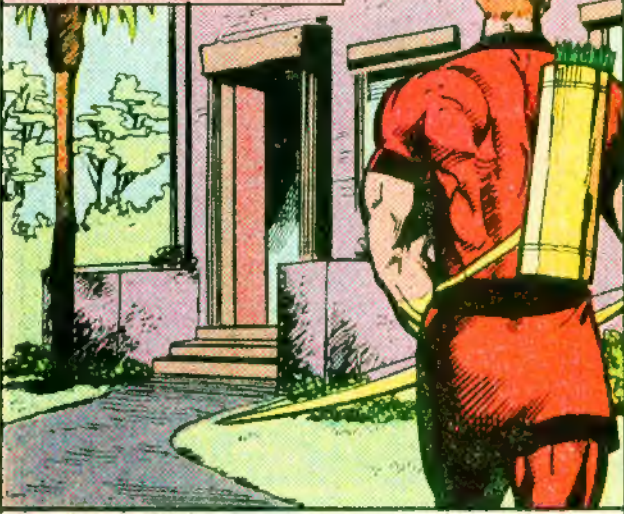




"I LEFT BURLEY'S CARD WITH RETTICK'S RECEPTIONIST-- NOT THAT I EXPECTED TO HEAR ANYTHING-- AND SPLIT. SO MUCH FOR 'RIGHT QUESTIONS, RIGHT TIME.'"



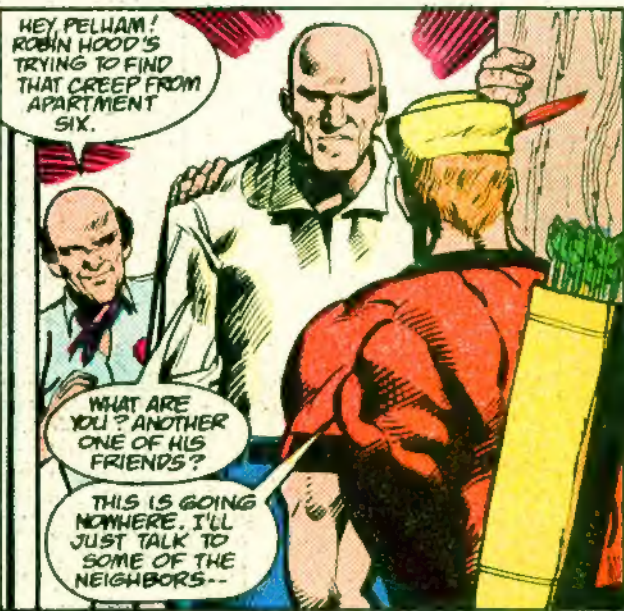
"I TOOK THE B7 INTO WEST HOLLYWOOD TO CHECK OUT LOSSNER'S OLD APARTMENT. NICE SECTION OF TOWN-- NICE AND EXPENSIVE."



ARE YOU THE MANAGER?

YEAH. WHAT'S WITH YOU? CIRCUS COME TO TOWN?

THAT'S FUNNY. I'M LOOKING FOR ONE OF YOUR OLD TENANTS-- DONALD LOSSNER.



HEY PELHAM! ROBIN HOOD'S TRYING TO FIND THAT CREEP FROM APARTMENT SIX.

WHAT ARE YOU? ANOTHER ONE OF HIS FRIENDS?

THIS IS GOING NOWHERE. I'LL JUST TALK TO SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS--



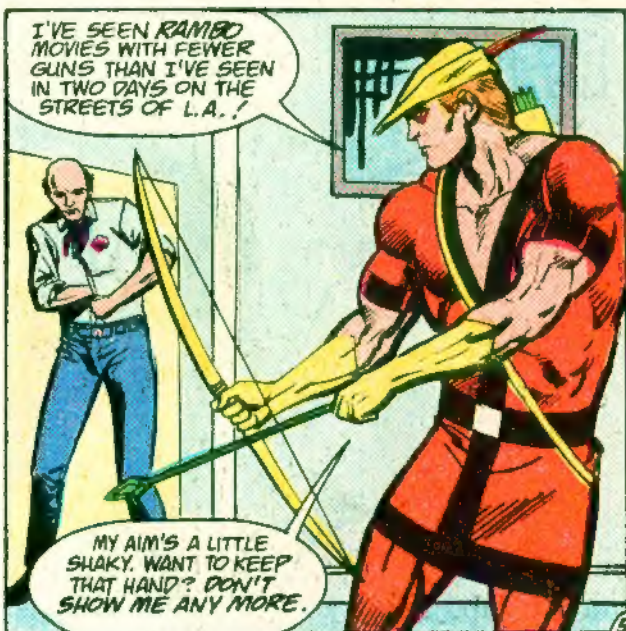
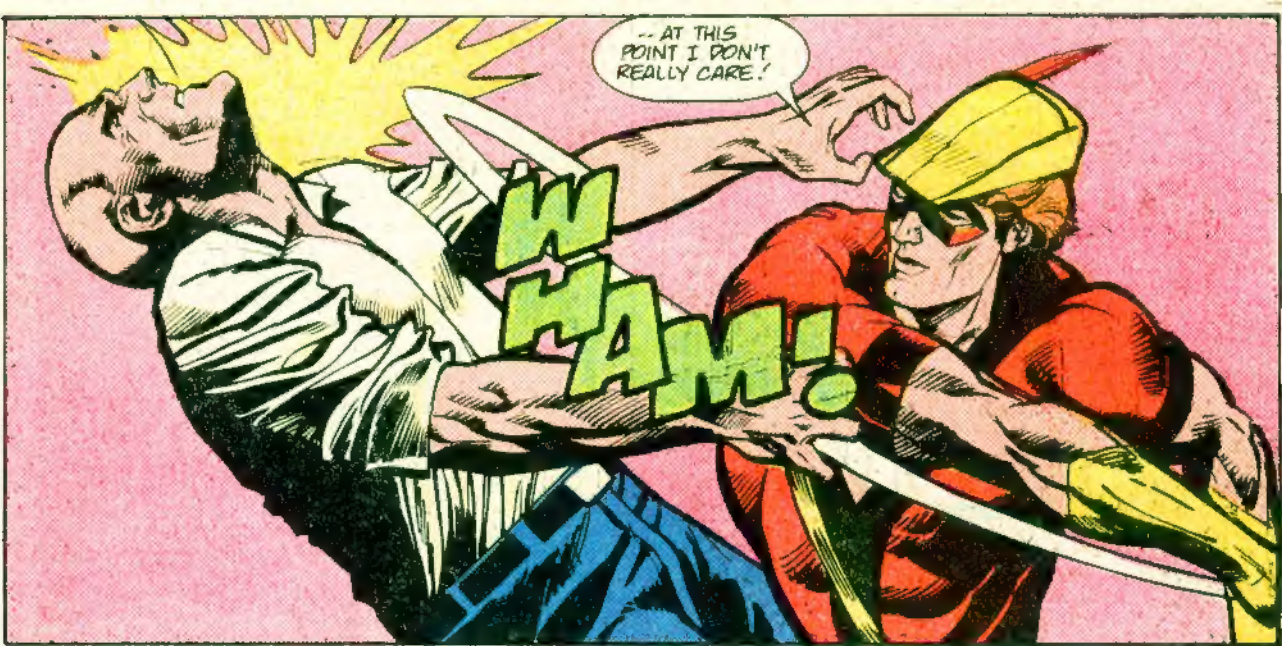
YOU'RE NOT ASKING ANYBODY ANYTHING. LOSSNER'S OUT OF HERE-- AND THAT'S THE WAY WE LIKE IT.

CAREFUL! HE'S PROBABLY GOT IT, TOO!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT--





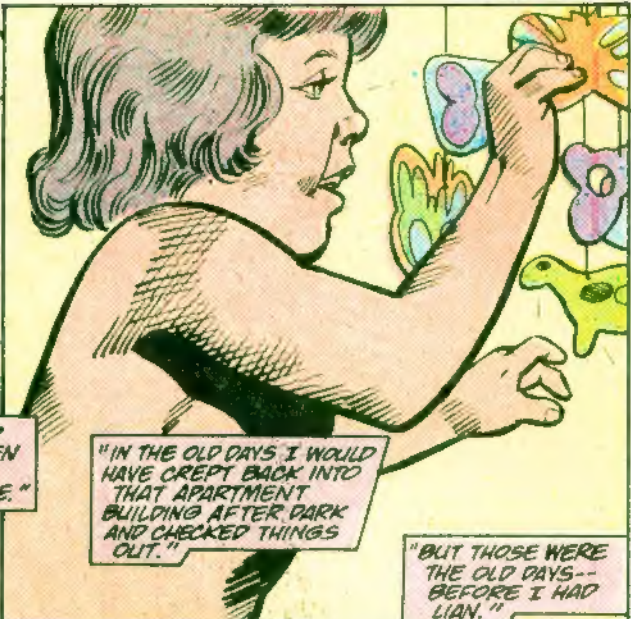


IT DIDN'T TAKE A SHERLOCK HOLMES TO SEE SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG. LOSSNER'S NAME WAS POISON."

PRETTY BUTTERFLY, ISN'T IT? LIAN WANTS THE PRETTY BUTTERFLY.

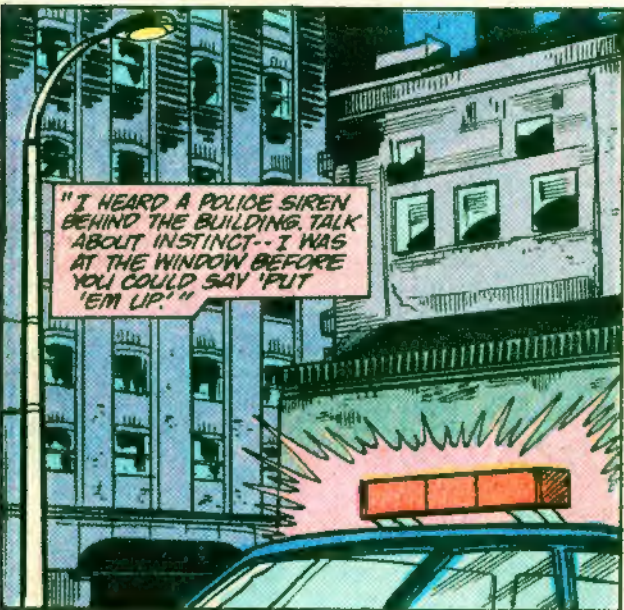


"I WASN'T ANY CLOSER TO LOSSNER THAN WHEN I STARTED-- AND MY ARM WAS KILLING ME."



"IN THE OLD DAYS I WOULD HAVE CREEPT BACK INTO THAT APARTMENT BUILDING AFTER DARK AND CHECKED THINGS OUT."

"BUT THOSE WERE THE OLD DAYS-- BEFORE I HAD LIAN."

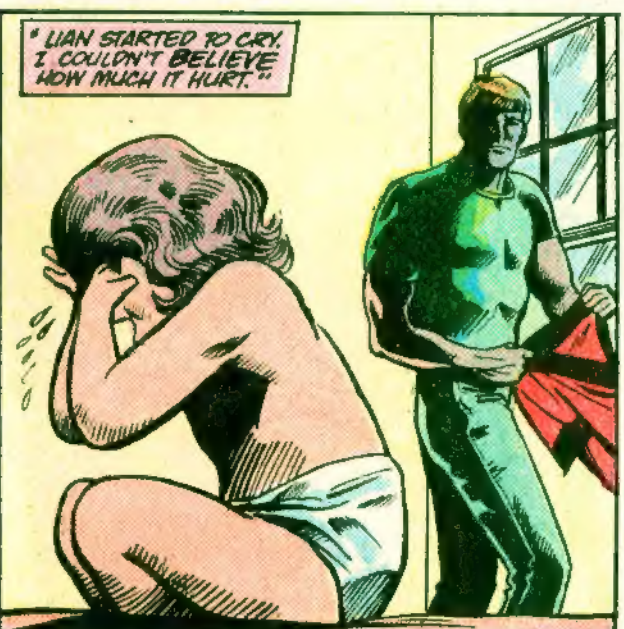


"I HEARD A POLICE SIREN BEHIND THE BUILDING. TALK ABOUT INSTINCT-- I WAS AT THE WINDOW BEFORE YOU COULD SAY 'PUT 'EM UP.'"



"GREEN ARROW HAD PROGRAMMED ME WELL. PUSH MY BUTTON AND I WAS THE COURAGEOUS CRIMESTOPPER-- EVIL-DOERS, BEWARE MY BOW."

MY GOD. WHAT AM I DOING?"



"LIAN STARTED TO CRY. I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH IT HURT."



"IT WAS EASY WHEN IT WAS JUST ME. I COULD PLAY SELFISH HERO."

IT'S OKAY, BABY. DADDY'S HERE.

"BUT NOT ANYMORE. MY DAUGHTER NEEDED ME, AND NOTHING WAS MORE IMPORTANT."







NEVER TRUST A DEMON. THEY  
LIE, AND THEY CHEAT, AND  
ALL THEY EVER GIVE IN RETURN  
IS PAIN.

SUCH TENDER  
FLESH! A HEART  
UNTOUCHED BY EVIL--  
'LEAST NOT BY  
MUCH.

COME, JUICY  
LITTLE FRIEND OF  
MINE. WE'LL...  
TALK AWHILE--  
AND THEN, I THINK,  
WE'LL DINE!

ETRIGAN--  
NO!



# NEVER TRUST A DEMON!

ALAN GRANT: writer • MARK PACELLA: penciller • BILL WRAY: inker  
JOHN COSTANZA: letterer • TAJANA WOOD: colorist • DAN RASPLER: editor

YOU CAN'T HURT  
HIM! HE'S  
INNOCENT!

AYE, NOW PERHAPS--  
BUT SOON THE TEARS.  
WHO KNOWS WHAT COMES  
WITH PASSING YEARS?

IS HE A BEAST WHO'LL SLAY  
FOR FUN? RAPIST? THIEF?  
IS HE THE ONE WHOSE FINGER  
GETS TO PRESS THE BUTTON,  
THAT BOYS YOUR WORLD  
AND MAKES MAN MUTTON?



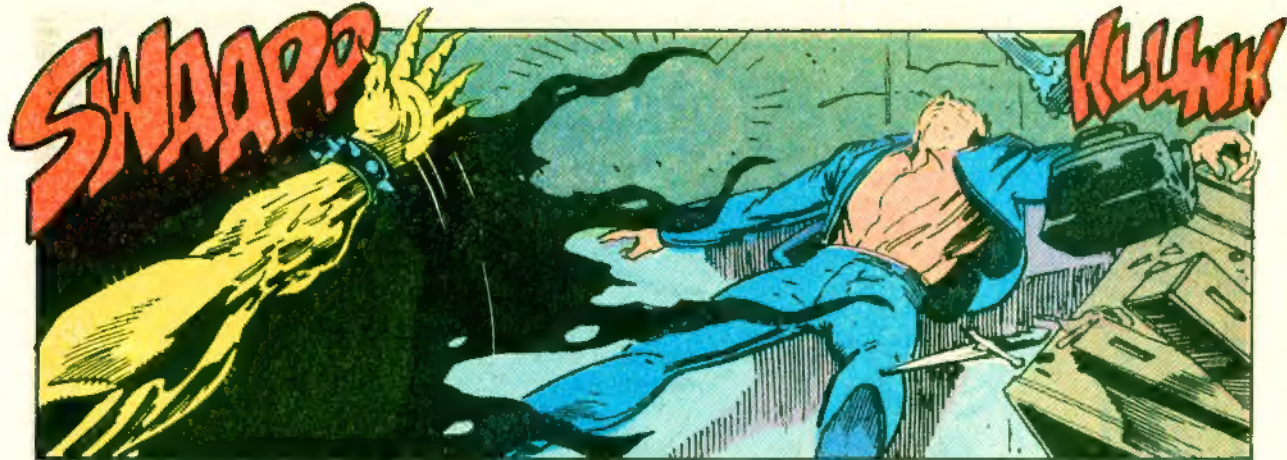
ARE HIS THE HANDS TO  
SQUEEZE A THROAT OR  
SNAP A SPINE?

HIS FUTURE TEEMS WITH  
EVIL, BLOOD, METHINKS  
THE BEST SOLUTION MI--

LEAVE HIM,  
DAMN YOU!







ATTACK ME? I CURSE YOUR BONES IN HELL TO ROT! MY *CAGE* YOU ARE--MY MASTER, *NOT!*

COME, JACK, FORGET THIS SAINT. 'TIS TIME WE TWO BECAME BETTER ACQUAINT!

I'M WARNING YOU, DEMON! I'VE HAD A *THOUSAND* YEARS OF YOUR WARPED SPITE-- I WON'T SEE YOU SPREAD IT TO OTHERS! HARM ONE HAIR ON THE BOY'S HEAD AND I SWEAR--

--I'LL...I'LL

ONE MOMENT, CHILD. THIS CAN'T BE MISSED-- THE DAGGER KISSING COWARD'S WRIST! SLICE IT THEN. *DIE*--AND BE DONE. DENY YOUR PRISONER. NOT HIS FUN!

I'M NOT JOKING-- AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS. *I DIE--YOU DIE!* THAT'S HOW *MERLIN* MADE IT!

HE CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT. TOGETHER, WE'RE IMMORTAL. APART, WE'RE NOT WORTH A DEMON'S DAMN!

PUT UP YOUR BLADE. THIS DEMON'S BESTED. BUT WHY SO GRIM? I ONLY JESTED. YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR, MAN--

SO GONE, THE DEMON ETRIGAN!



IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE  
THOUGHT OF DEATH TO FREE ME  
OF MY CURSE BUT ALWAYS I  
HOLD BACK. IF I DO DIE, I'LL  
SURELY GO TO HELL.



AND GOD ALONE--IF HE EXISTS--  
KNOWS WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME  
THERE!

JACK! JACK--?  
IS HE--?

HE'LL  
BE ALL  
RIGHT.



JUST..  
LOVE  
HIM.

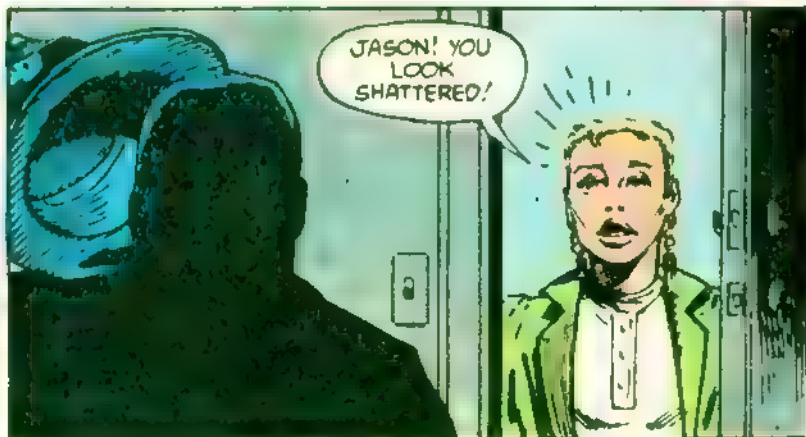


THE EVIL'S GONE FROM HERE--  
BUT ONLY TO APPEAR SOMEPLACE  
ELSE. TIRELESS DEMONS PLAYING  
THEIR ETERNAL BLOODY GAMES!

SOMETIMES I GET SO SICK OF IT  
ALL!

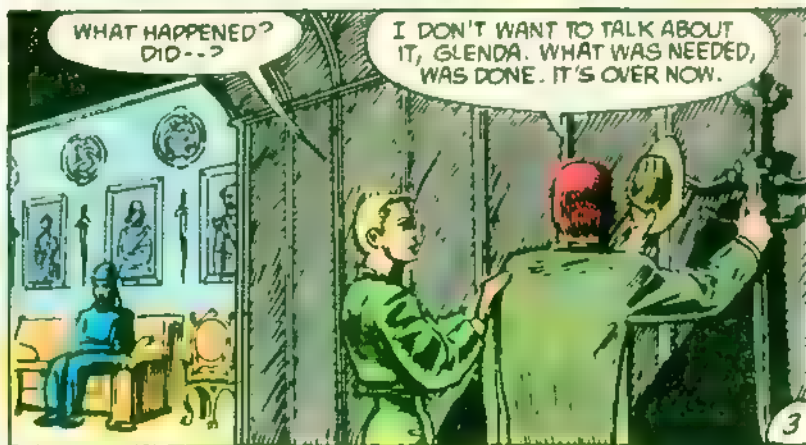


JASON! YOU  
LOOK  
SHATTERED!

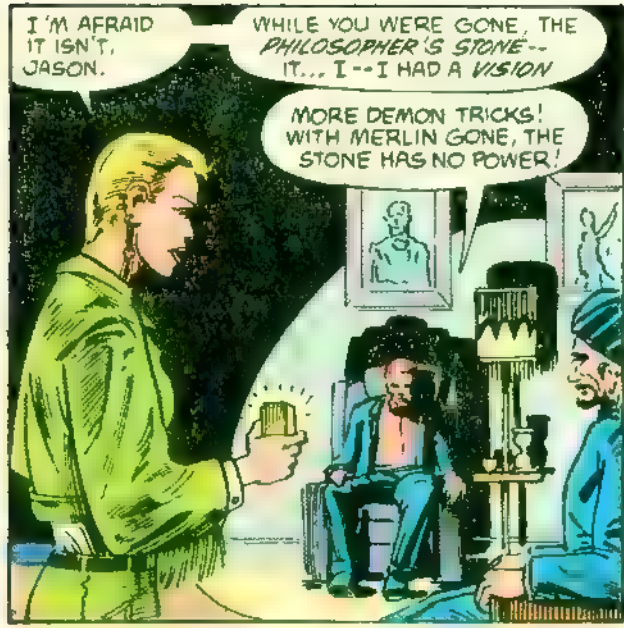


WHAT HAPPENED?  
DID--?

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT  
IT, GLENDA. WHAT WAS NEEDED,  
WAS DONE. IT'S OVER NOW.



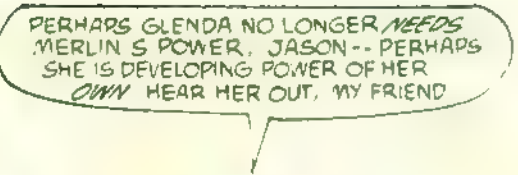




I'M AFRAID IT ISN'T, JASON.

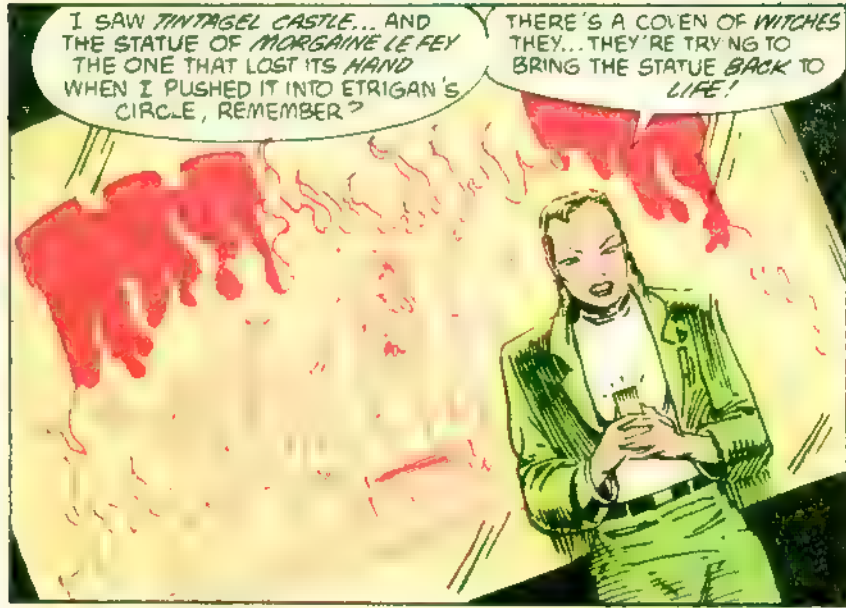
WHILE YOU WERE GONE, THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE-- IT... I--I HAD A VISION

MORE DEMON TRICKS! WITH MERLIN GONE, THE STONE HAS NO POWER!



PERHAPS GLENDA NO LONGER NEEDS MERLIN'S POWER, JASON-- PERHAPS SHE IS DEVELOPING POWER OF HER OWN. HEAR HER OUT, MY FRIEND

SORRY, RANDU. I'M STILL WOUND UP, I GUESS GO ON, GLENDA.



I SAW TINTAGEL CASTLE... AND THE STATUE OF MORGAINE LE FEY THE ONE THAT LOST ITS HAND WHEN I PUSHED IT INTO ETRIGAN'S CIRCLE, REMEMBER?

THERE'S A COVEN OF WITCHES THEY...THEY'RE TRYING TO BRING THE STATUE BACK TO LIFE!



MORGAINE LE FEY--MERLIN'S ENEMY, SWORN TO HIS DESTRUCTION.. AND, BY EXTENSION, ETRIGAN'S AND MINE.

OH GOD! DOES IT NEVER END?

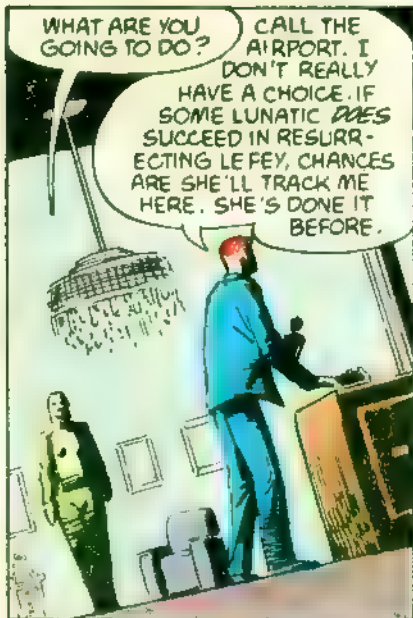
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, GLENDA? IT'S NOT JUST... YOUR MIND PLAYING TRICKS?



WHY IS IT SO HARD TO ACCEPT, COMING FROM ME? IF RANDU HAD TOLD YOU--

RANDU HAS PSYCHIC POWERS!

WELL, I THINK I HAVE, TOO. AT LEAST, THERE'S SOME STRANGE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE STONE AND ME...



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

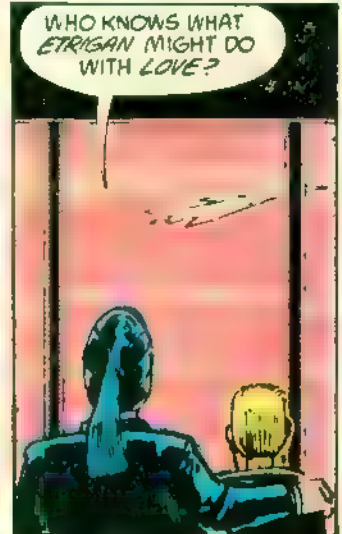
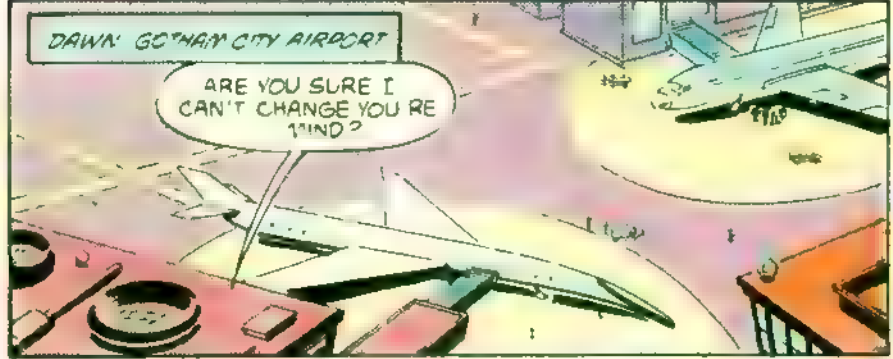
CALL THE AIRPORT. I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE. IF SOME LUNATIC DOES SUCCEED IN RESURRECTING LE FEY, CHANCES ARE SHE'LL TRACK ME HERE. SHE'S DONE IT BEFORE.



BETTER I GO TO TINTAGEL AND TRY TO NIP THE WHOLE BUSINESS IN THE BUD!

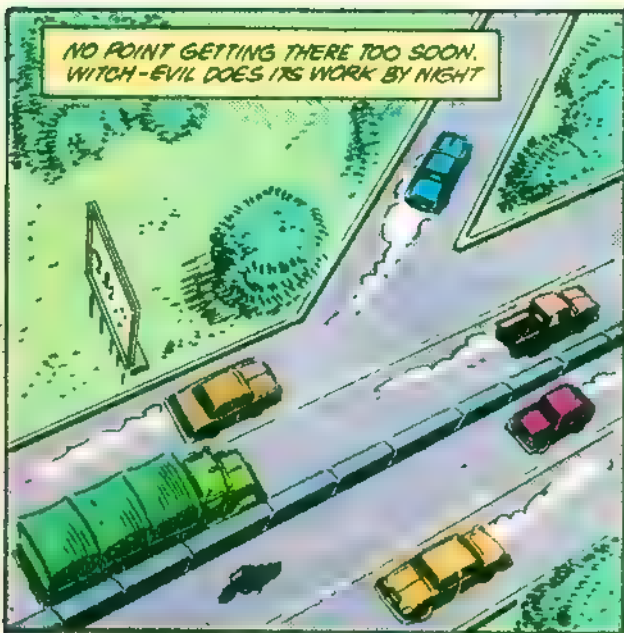
I'LL COME WITH YOU! PERHAPS I CAN--







NO POINT GETTING THERE TOO SOON.  
WITCH-EVIL DOES ITS WORK BY NIGHT

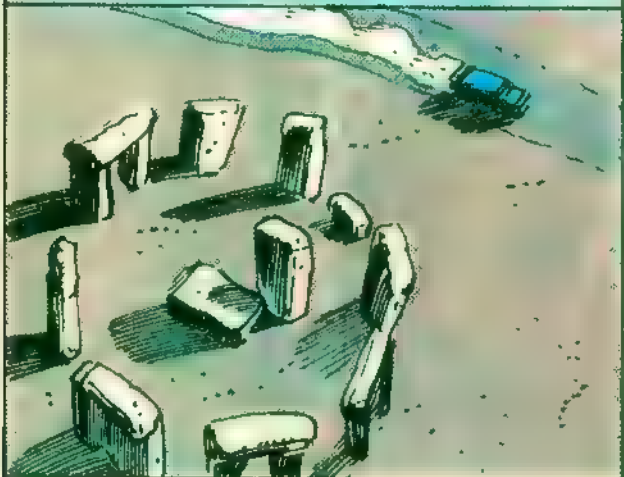


I TAKE TO THE LANES, THE NETWORK  
OF ANCIENT ROADS THAT CRISSCROSSES  
BRITAIN'S WEST COUNTRY.



THERE'S BEEN  
POWER HERE FOR  
5,000 YEARS AND  
MORE.

STONEHENGE-- THE GREAT TEMPLE SOME SAY  
HAS STOOD AS LONG AS THE PYRAMIDS. WHAT  
KIND OF POWER DROVE MEGALITHIC MAN TO DRAG  
FOUR-TON BLOCKS FOR FORTY MILES? OR DID  
WIZARDS BUILD IT? OR ATLANTEANS?



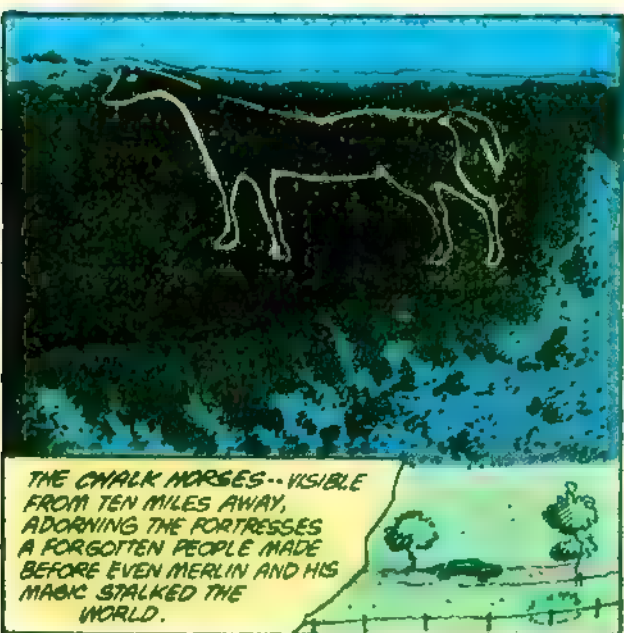
OR AS THE CHILDREN  
HAVE IT-- ARE THEY  
ONLY GIANTS DANCING?



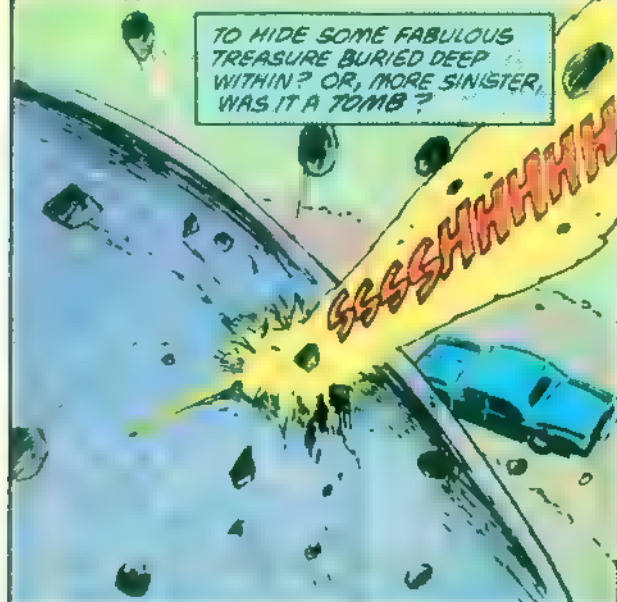
SILBURY HILL-- THE BIGGEST MAN-  
MADE MOUND IN EUROPE. IT TOOK A  
THOUSAND MEN TWENTY YEARS WHY?



THE CHALK HORSES-- VISIBLE  
FROM TEN MILES AWAY,  
ADORNING THE FORTRESSES  
A FORGOTTEN PEOPLE MADE  
BEFORE EVEN MERLIN AND HIS  
MAGIC STALKED THE  
WORLD.





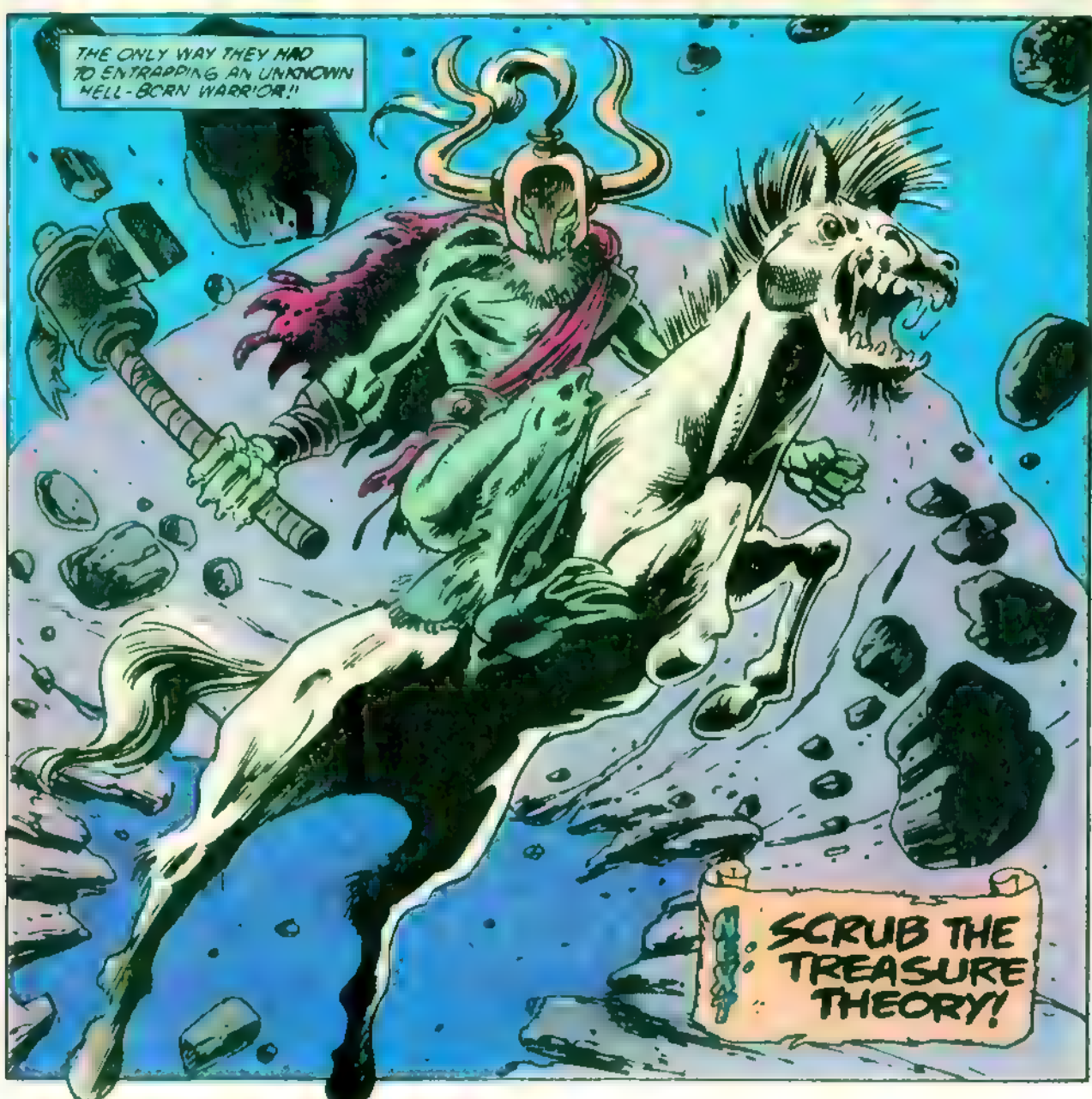


TO HIDE SOME FABULOUS  
TREASURE BURIED DEEP  
WITHIN? OR, MORE SINISTER,  
WAS IT A TOMB?

NO, NOT  
A TOMB--

WHA...?

--A PRISON



THE ONLY WAY THEY HAD  
TO ENTRAPPING AN UNKNOWN  
HELL-BORN WARRIOR!!

SCRUB THE  
TREASURE  
THEORY!



# HERO HOTLINE

created by  
BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DE STEFANO

INKS: SCHAFFENBERGER  
LETTERS: MAS  
COLORS: BOB RO  
EDITING: AUGUSTYN

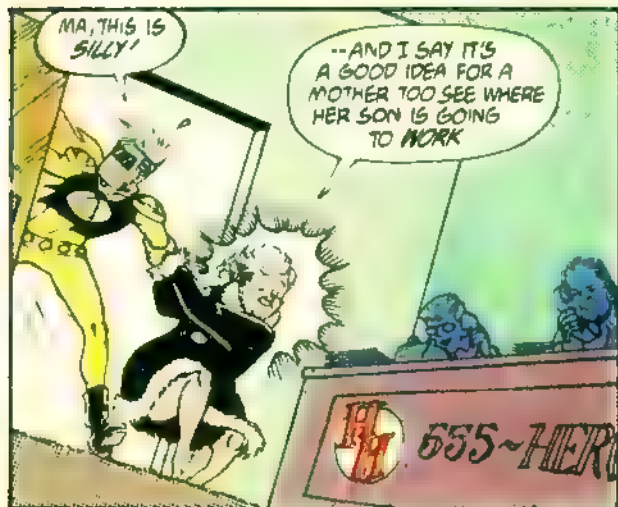
HERO HOTLINE,  
GOOD MORNING

HAVE YOU TRIED  
THE MISSING PERSONS  
BUREAU?

IS THE  
ROCK MOVING  
NOW, SIR?

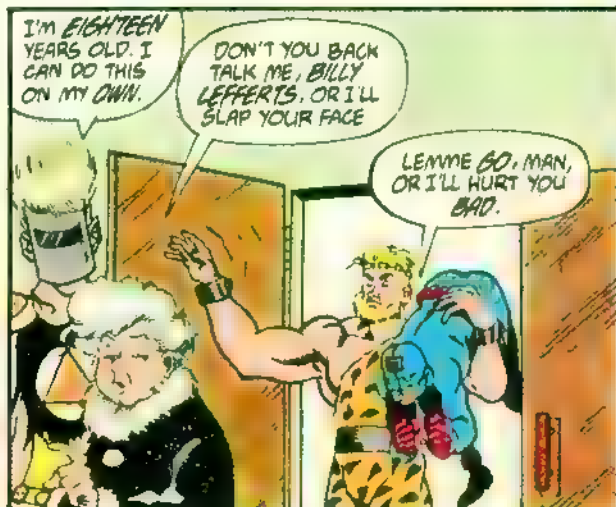


NO MA AM  
WE CAN'T  
SEND SOMEONE  
TO INSTALL YOUR GARAGE  
DOOR OPENER



MA, THIS IS  
SILLY!

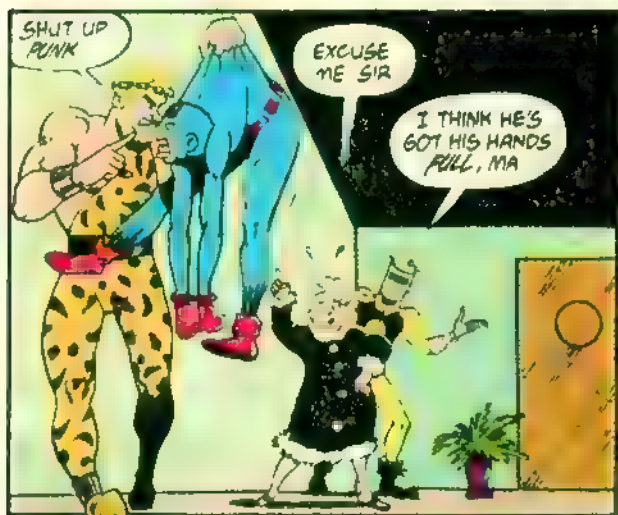
--AND I SAY IT'S  
A GOOD IDEA FOR A  
MOTHER TOO SEE WHERE  
HER SON IS GOING  
TO WORK



I'M EIGHTEEN  
YEARS OLD. I  
CAN DO THIS  
ON MY OWN.

DON'T YOU BACK  
TALK ME, BILLY  
LEFFERTS. OR I'LL  
SLAP YOUR FACE

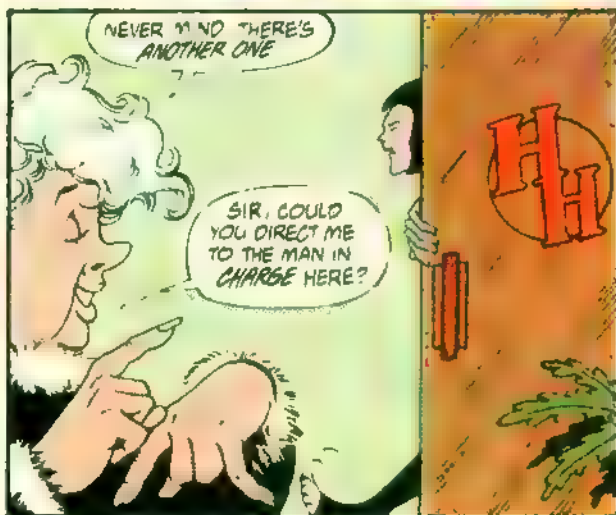
LENNIE GO, MAN,  
OR I'LL HURT YOU  
BAD.



SHUT UP  
PUNK

EXCUSE  
ME SIR

I THINK HE'S  
GOT HIS HANDS  
FULL, MA

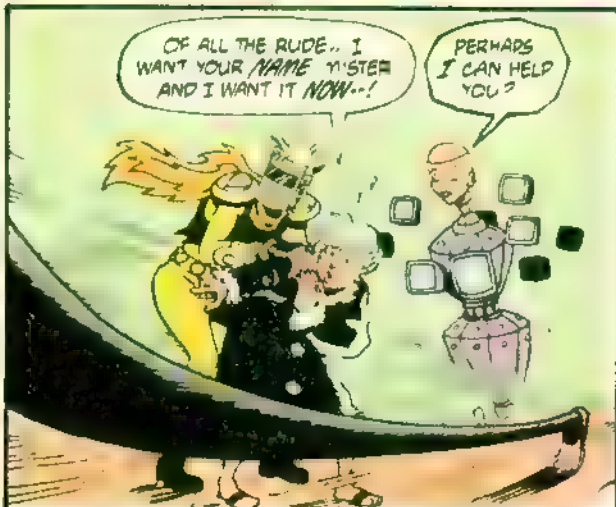


NEVER MIND THERE'S  
ANOTHER ONE

SIR, COULD  
YOU DIRECT ME  
TO THE MAN IN  
CHARGE HERE?



WHAT DO I LOOK  
LIKE, LADY? A TOUR  
GUIDE? GET OUTTA  
MY FACE



OF ALL THE RUDE.. I  
WANT YOUR NAME Y'STER  
AND I WANT IT NOW..!

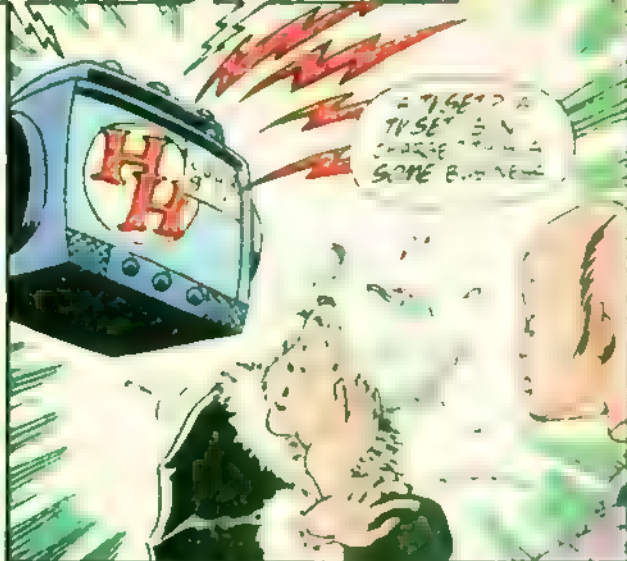
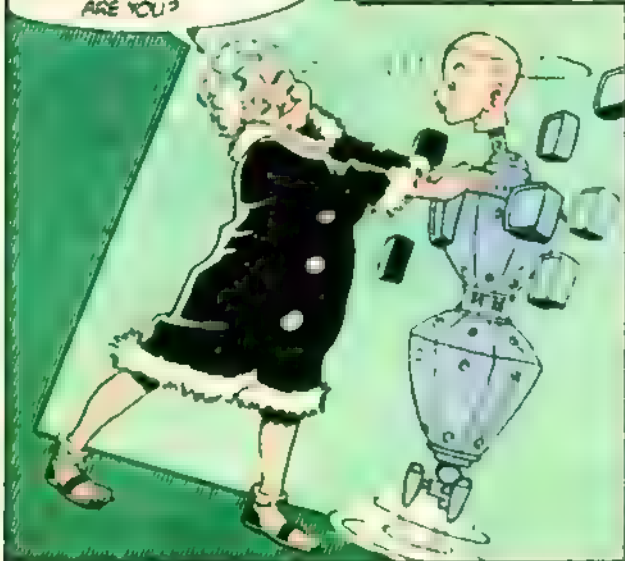
PERHAPS  
I CAN HELP  
YOU?



ARE YOU IN CHARGE HERE?  
WHAT SORT OF SUPERHERO  
ARE YOU?

YOU ARE SPEAKING TO THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT  
YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN THE WORLD... THE 500 ZG

I AM IN CHARGE HERE  
CAN I HELP YOU?



A TIGER? A  
TV SET? IN  
CHARGE? THAT'S  
SOME BULLSHIT!

YOU COULD START OUT BY TEACHING SOME  
OF THESE PEOPLE SOME MANNERS THAT  
RUBBERY FELLOW IS NO GENTLEMAN

HA LOUSIERES DEVELOP ASIDE I ASSUME  
THAT YOU ARE MRS LEFFER'S ASSHOLEY'S YOUR  
SON HERE FOR HIS FIRST DAY ON THE JOB



YOU GOT THAT RIGHT  
MY BOY IS GOING TO BE  
A BIG STAR IN THE  
SUPERHERO BIZ  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE IF I  
HAVE ANY SAY IN IT!

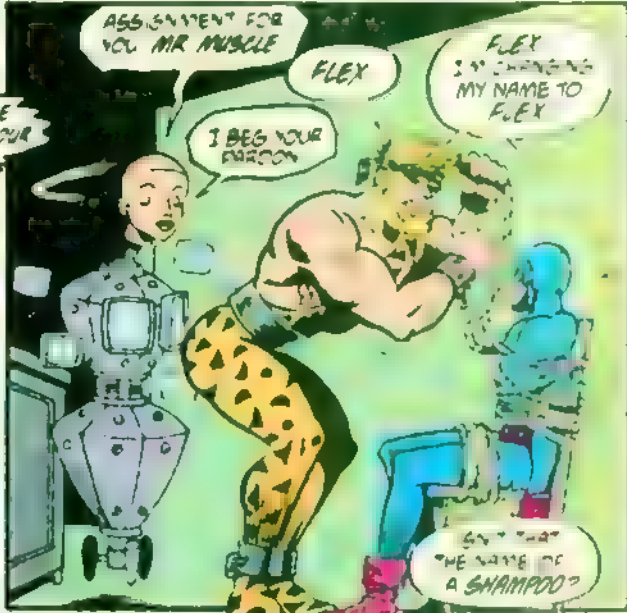
PLEASE  
FOLLOW  
ME

ASSIGNMENT FOR  
YOU MR MUSCLE

FLEX

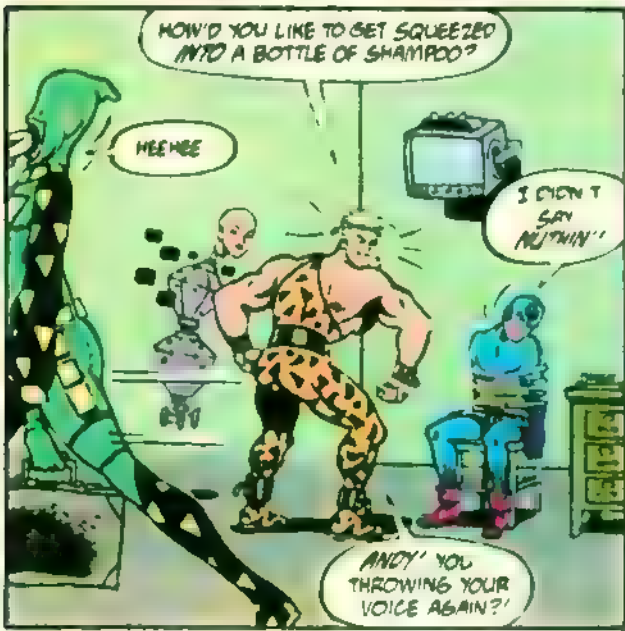
FLEX  
I'M CHANGING  
MY NAME TO  
FLEX

I BEG YOUR  
PARDON



GET THAT  
THE NAME OF  
A SHAMPOO?

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GET SQUEEZED  
INTO A BOTTLE OF SHAMPOO?



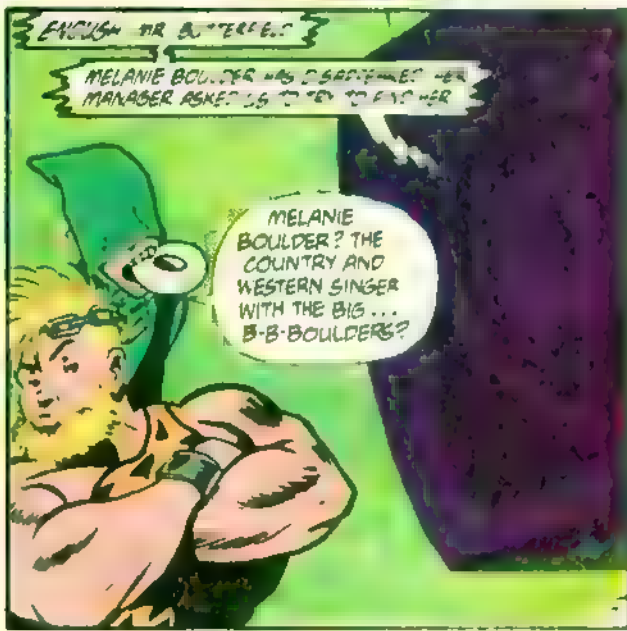
HEEHEE

I DIDN'T  
SAY  
NOTHING

ANDY! YOU  
THROWING YOUR  
VOICE AGAIN?!

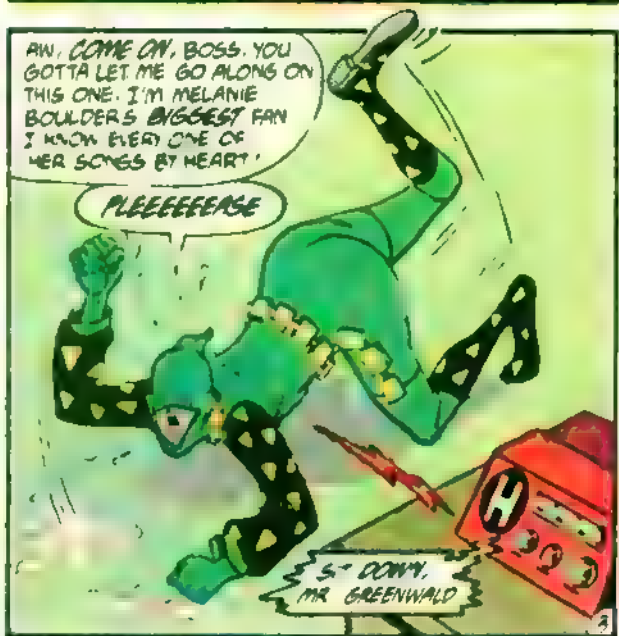
ENOUGH MR BUTTERFLY

MELANIE BOULDER HAS DISAPPEARED HER  
MANAGER ASKED US TO TRY TO FIND HER

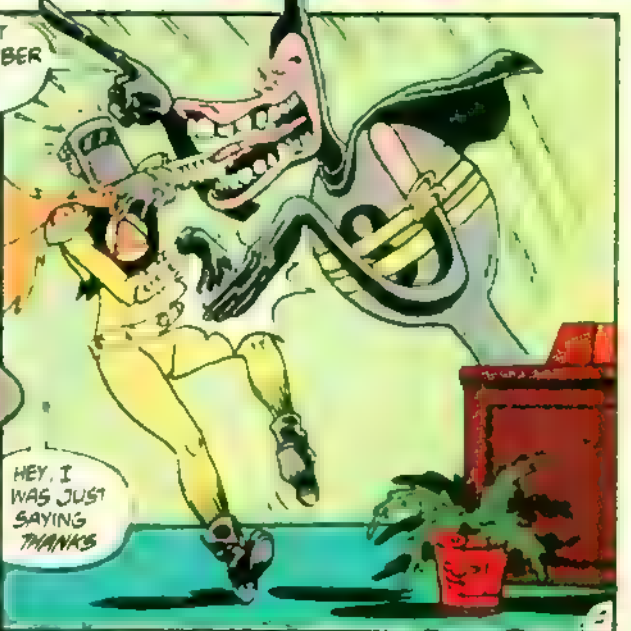
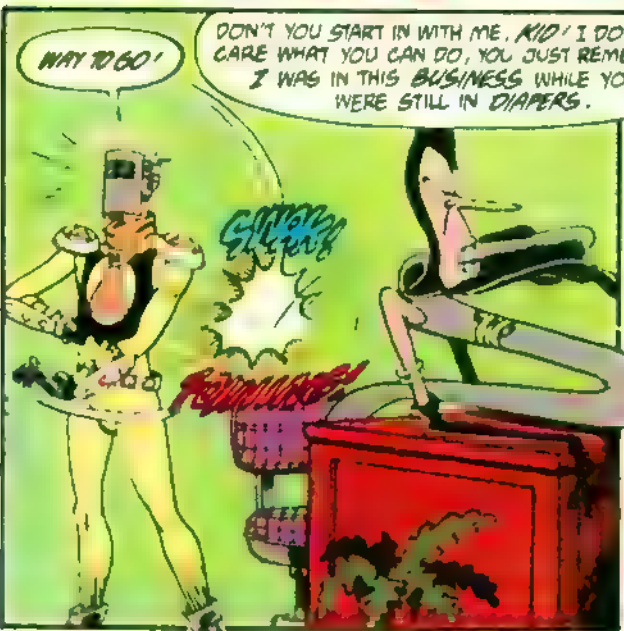
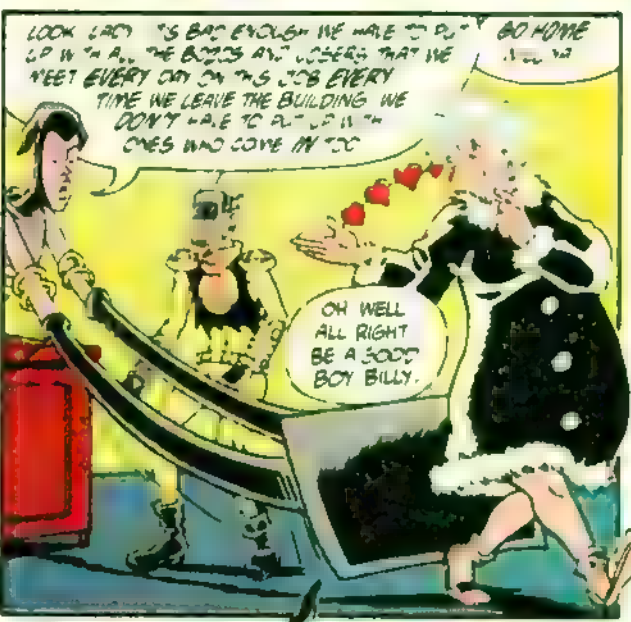
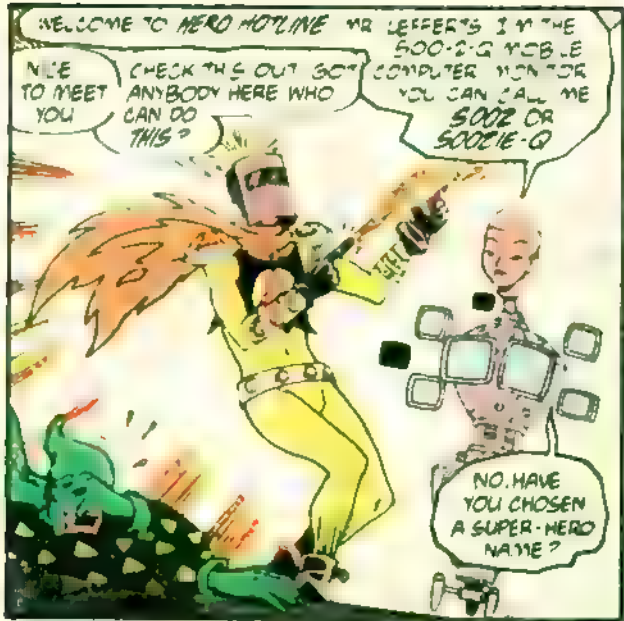


MELANIE  
BOULDER? THE  
COUNTRY AND  
WESTERN SINGER  
WITH THE BIG ...  
B-B-BOULDERS?

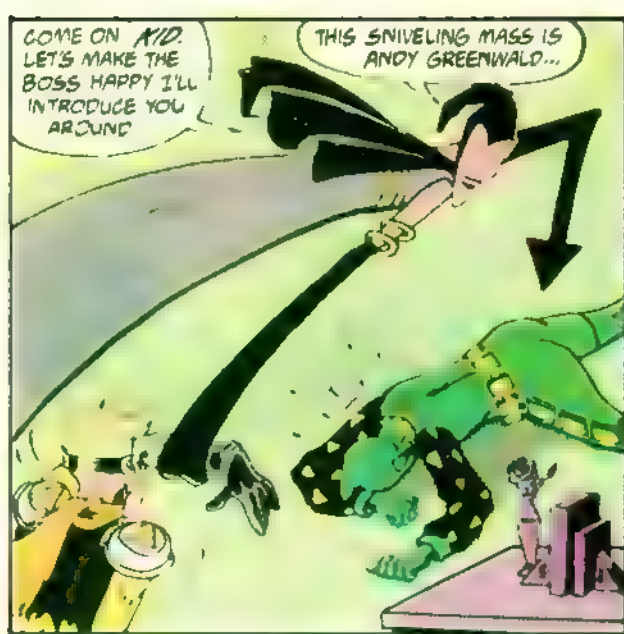




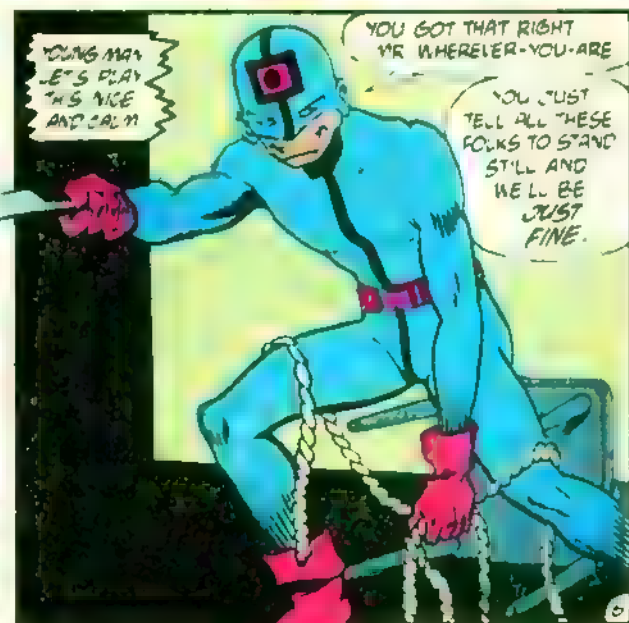
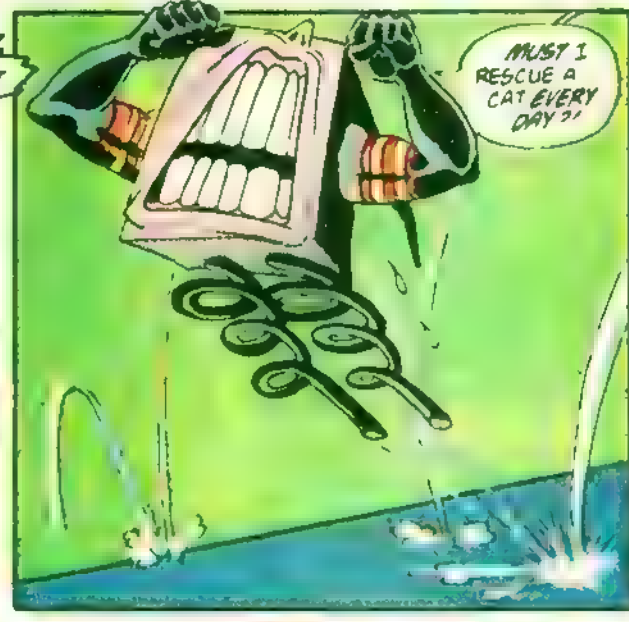
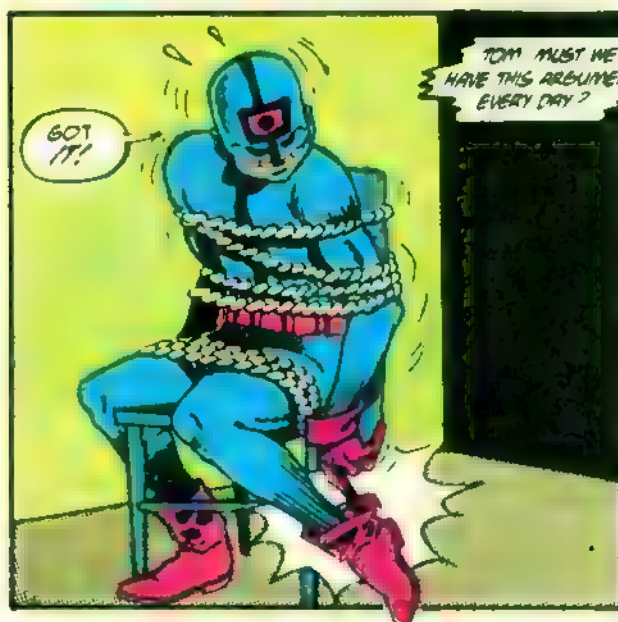
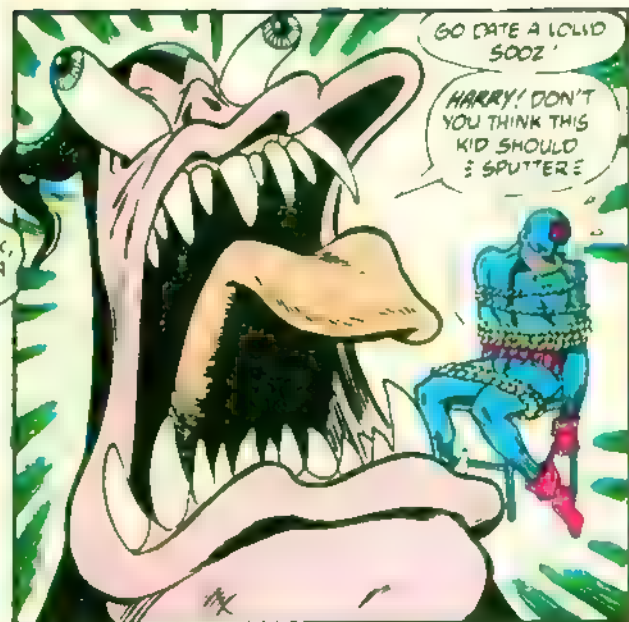
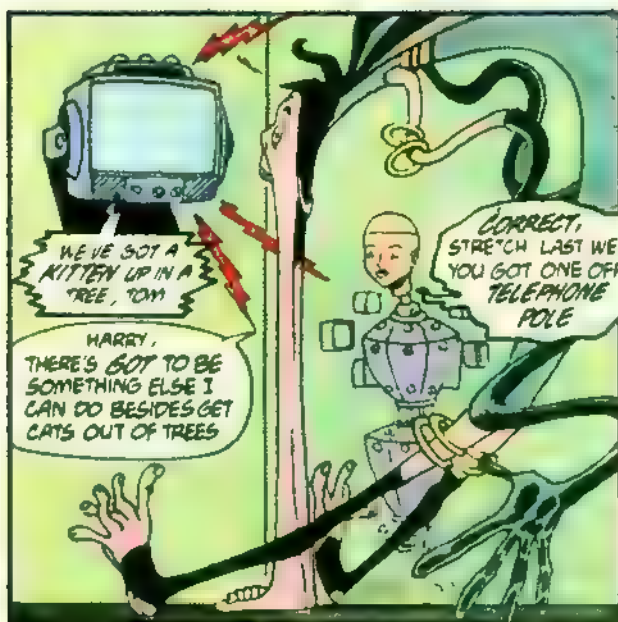




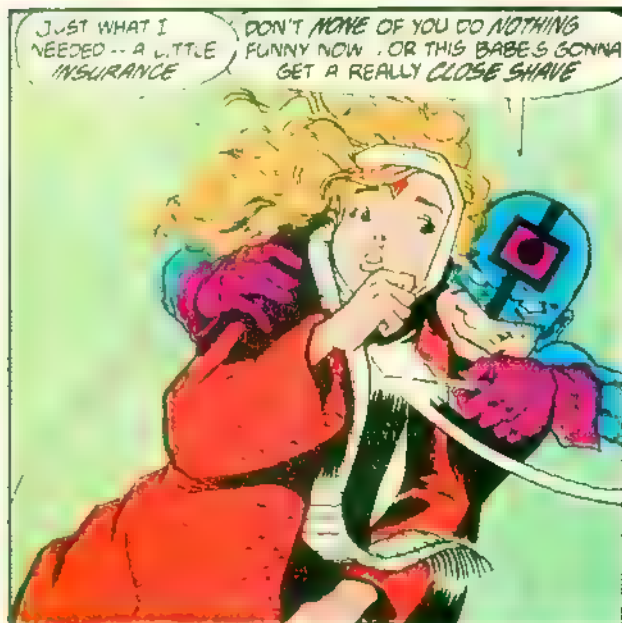
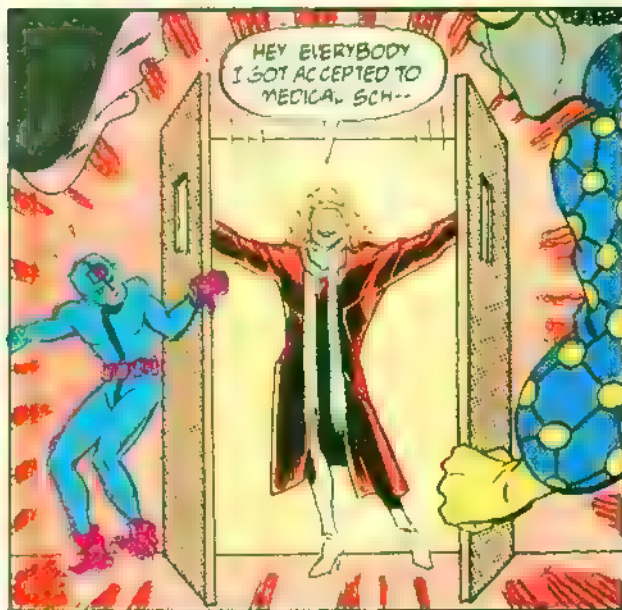
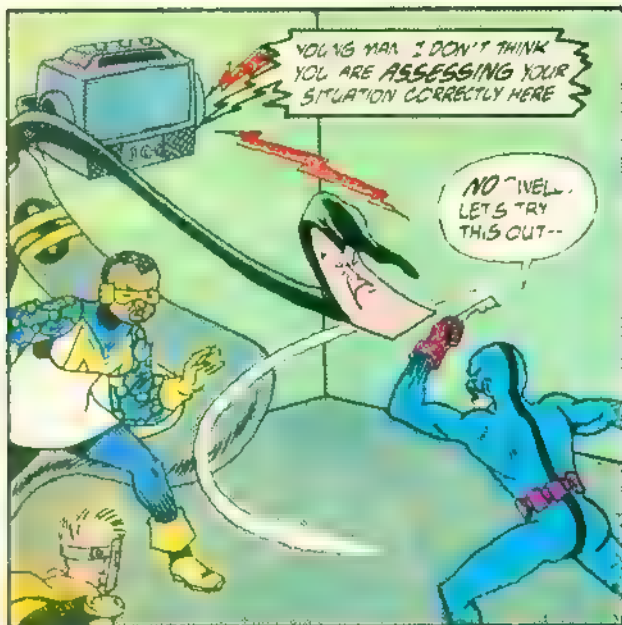














# SUPERMAN

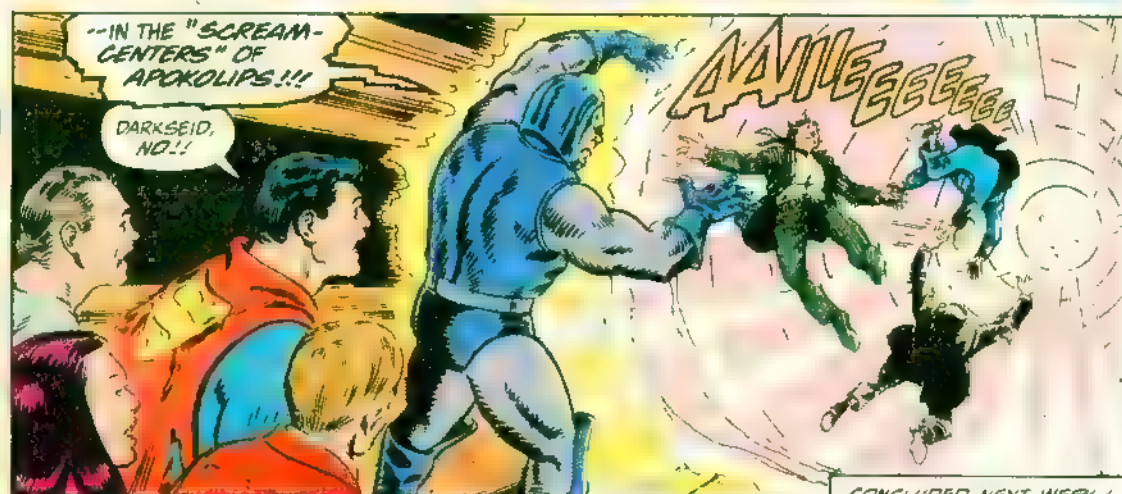
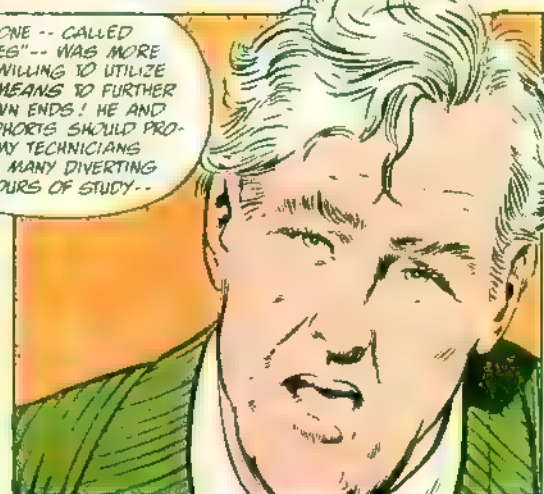
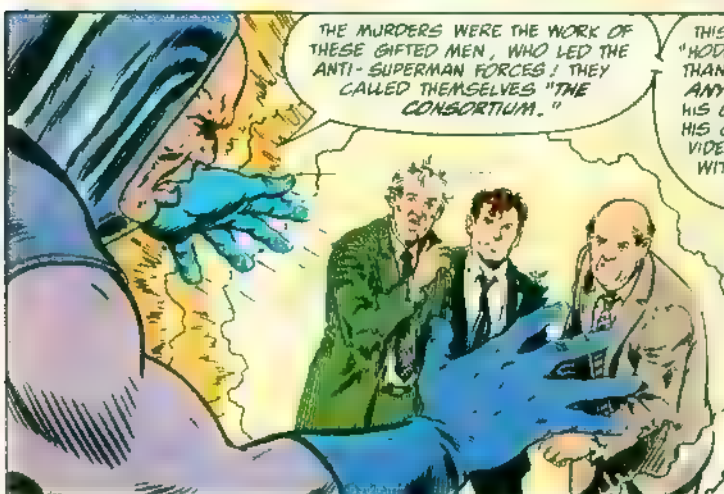
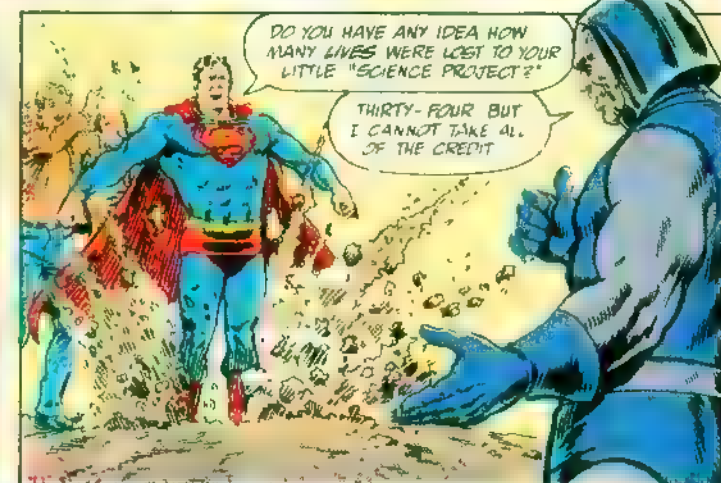
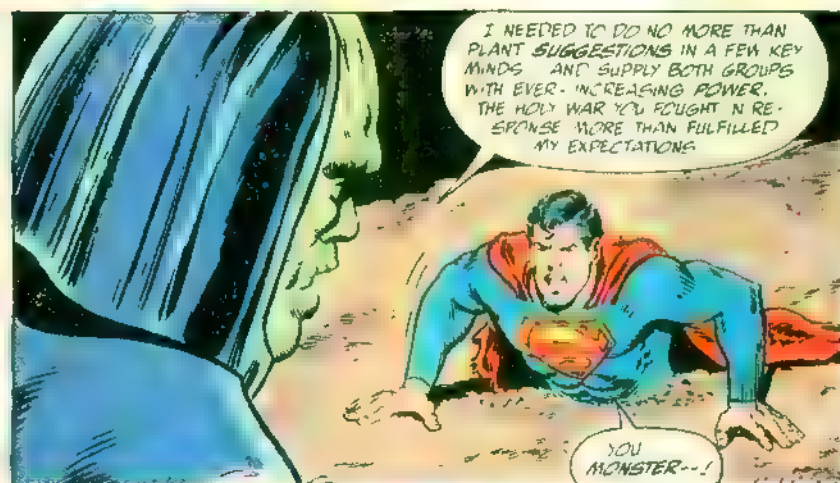
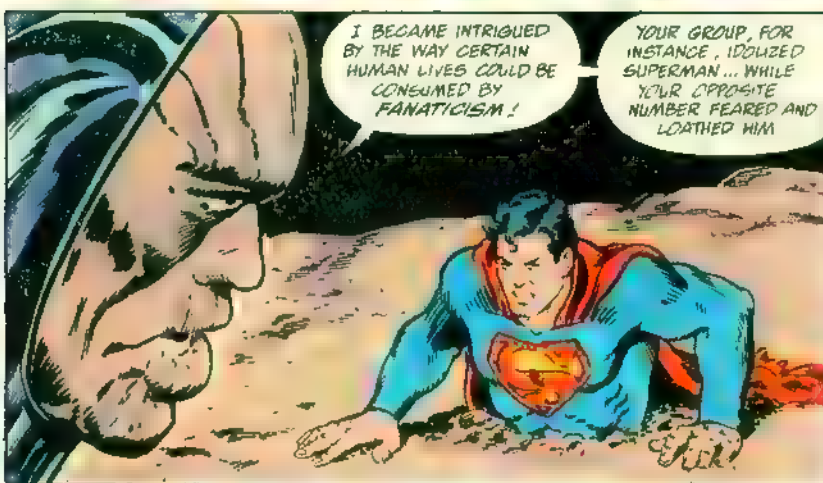
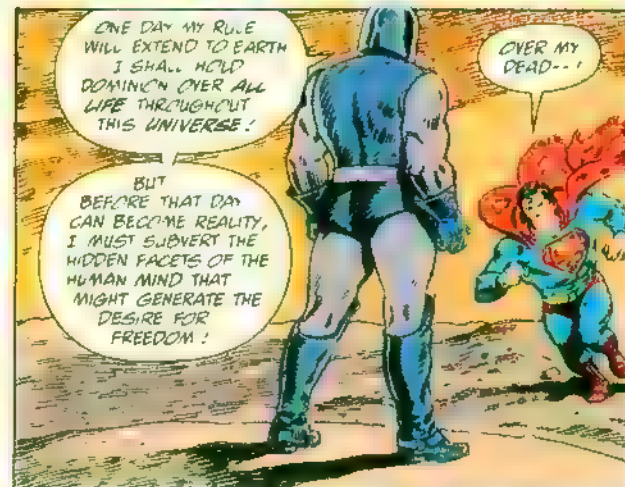
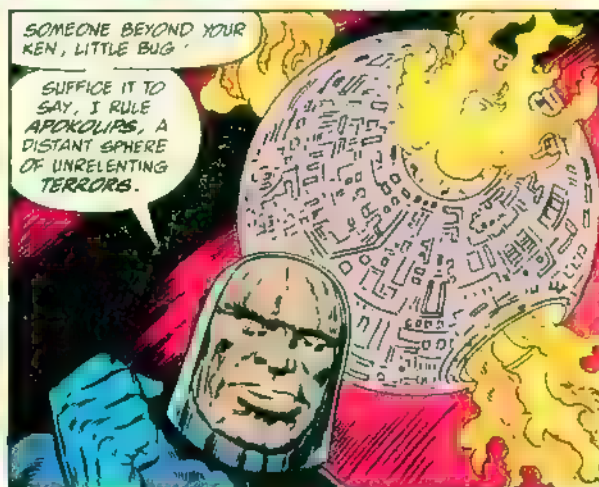
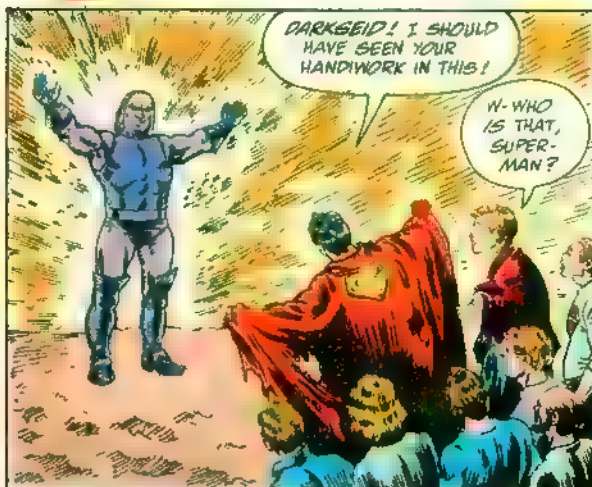
Created by  
JERRY SIEGEL &  
JOE SHUSTER

WITH THE HOLY WAR AT AN END, ITS SECRET  
MASTERMIND STANDS REVEALED

## THE POWER OF

# DARKSEID!

ROGER STERN - WRITER  
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER  
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER  
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER  
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST  
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK!





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L 3571

Dear Mike & Brian,

Well, we're a half year into the weekly status of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY so it's as good a time as any to have a look at where we stand.

The overall idea behind the book is good: rotating features giving us a large variety of material, aiming to please most of the people most of the time. And on top of that, a readers' poll to try to give some idea of which of the features are pleasing more people than others.

In practice, the dream, as it were, lives on but a little tarnished. The desire to include many types of strips has meant, to me, too much variety to be good for the book. An all super-hero or all eclectic (Deadman, Phantom Stranger) title would have targeted a more stable audience. But for me, and, I know, many I've spoken to, there are some issues where the amount of good that outweighs the bad means I don't buy the issue. True, I have a wide taste in comics and true, I've enjoyed most of most of the issues. But I fear too many readers won't want to make the financial commitment to buying every issue.

Looking at the individual strips, starting with those in the latest issue (#626) I'd say Superman just hasn't worked in this format. Stories abound of a new Pérez created Superman book back under this title and I'm sure that'll do much better.

Green Lantern has never been comfortable in this format. Hal is potentially a great and truly noble hero, but his stories here have been unacceptably shallow and juvenile, and only in the past few issues has the art been up to scratch. I look forward to his return to his own book.

I'm not sure quite what to make of Shazam! Once again, the message appears horribly juvenile. Villains and their morals like Captain Nazi were the rage in the '50s and '60s, but this just isn't a story for the '80s. Not that there aren't such problems still in America—it's just the wrong style to use for the series. Good message, wrong messenger.

Secret Six hasn't really worked, either. Maybe it's just been too complicated a strip to divide into such short segments. And whilst I loved Dan Spiggle's atmospheric art, the present look is too reminiscent of the culturally deprived '70s era of comics. This would have been a better series in its own series.

Deadman has been intermittently excellent. Mike Baron's latest story has

been very much played up to his philosophical strengths, whilst the seldom seen Kelley Jones and Tony deZuñiga have proved a most successful art team. Unfortunately, he's a character who's never going to have as large an audience as the super heroes unless you changed his character, which would be a mistake. But I'm sure he deserves the odd mini-series, given the right creative team.

I've voted Black Canary top of the poll in each issue she's been in, yet, in common with Blackhawk, the other best feature, she just doesn't fit in. This is a much more mature strip than the rest and again would have a limited audience, as the polls have shown. Also, both writer and artist are new to the job, and it shows. I've really enjoyed Randy DuBurke's Gulacy-inspired art, but some of the panel to panel storytelling has lost its way, a problem in a story that's been written in a deliberately complex and multi-layered way, leaving a lot to the reader to figure out, which the average reader of ACW hasn't been expecting to be asked to do. The polls wouldn't lead you to keep the feature going, but Black Canary is a wonderful character and given time, should, I'm sure, get at least the odd mini-series.

Blackhawk has been excellent. I hear he's getting his own book and I'm very pleased. Rick Burchett's art has been lovely and gone wonderfully well with both the writers you've had. I hope you make his title "mature," as it's begging to go that way and unashamedly so.

Wild Dog, too, will deserve a further opportunity once this format finishes. Collins and Beatty have always been good as "socially aware" features and again, although the character doesn't appeal to everyone, I'm sure there are enough people out there to support a semi-regular book. A series of mini-series would probably be better than a bi-monthly title, though.

Nightwing's story was terribly told but I understand he's due back with different creators. He's a man best used in the Titans but who should be able to hold down his own feature. Like anything else, you need the right creative team.

This was something Catwoman had and for someone who's always been a supporting character she held her own strip perfectly well. She also deserves her own book, at least periodically. Barry Kitson's first US work was great. Phantom Stranger's brief vignettes

were well below standard. I loved his mini-series, but just couldn't get into his stories here. Something just went wrong.

So, all in all, more good than bad, but a set-up too easy to criticize, with many inconsistencies and too much inappropriate apposition of types of story. I've enjoyed most of it but I think you'll end up having to separate the features out again.

Malcolm Bourne  
6 Cragwell Road  
Prestwich  
Manchester, M25 8EF  
ENGLAND

*As is well known by now, ACTION does indeed revert to monthly status and all-Superman format soon. And yes, you did hear those "stories" correctly, Malcolm: George Pérez is the creative force behind the Man of Steel's return to full-length stories.*

*And most of the other features will be "separating out." As noted previously, Blackhawk and Green Lantern head off to their new number ones, Deadman stars in an upcoming "Prestige Format" mini-series by Baron and Jones, Wild Dog has a special for next year in the works right now as well as some ultra secret future possibilities, and the CAT WOMAN mini-series should be out any second now. And that's just for starters. Many of our other ACW characters are also in the works for specials, minis, and the like. Not half bad, eh?*

.....

Dear Folks,

Just finished reading ACW #626 and had to take a minute to tell you how much I enjoyed Captain Marvel and his battles against the neo-facists. I would really like to see this character developed into one of your mainstream heroes, with artwork by an Ordway, Perez or Aparo. There is tremendous potential given the past success of the hero while under the Fawcett banner and the charismatic nature of the "big red cheese" himself. For the immediate future, however, I'd be happy with another episode of Captain Marvel within the pages of ACW, as soon as possible. Also, how about featuring him on the cover?

Speaking of covers, looks like you've done it again! Number 626 is one of the best covers in the series to date. Don't know how you managed to drag Paul Chadwick away from Concrete, but I



sure hope you can get him to hang around and do a couple more covers and a story or two! By the way, I feel you have done an exceptional job with the covers of at least 21 of the first 26 issues of ACW. The fabulous array of talent and the diversified styles that you have featured on the covers serve notice to anyone who picks up the comic that it's going to be very special. Some of the gents of comic book art have taken on the task in the past several months. People such as Toth, Pérez, Orlando, Smith, Gibbons, and Anderson, as well as the Kubert brothers, have made ACW sparkle on the shelves. Now if you can also deliver covers by Aparo, Kane, Ditko, Romita, Grell, Giordano, and Ordway, I will be totally happy.

Overall, though, #626 was a bit of a letdown for me, compared with the standard you have established with this series. Green Lantern didn't make any wonderfully creative green images out of his power beam to handle the super tasks he got involved with. I missed the big green mouse traps, fire extinguishers, hammers, and fists that earlier stories contained. All those unique gadgets and creatures that come out of Hal's mind are part of the special quality of Green Lantern. Please bring 'em back.

The two really low spots of the book, in my opinion, were the Deadman and Black Canary stories. Black Canary has bad art, confusing plots and subplots, and soap opera dramatics. To top it off, the star appears so infrequently that she doesn't even deserve to own the title. The Deadman story was a lot of trashy stuff that simply depresses me when I read it. I don't like all the gory, half-rotten bodies of the zombies that shouldn't even appear in the late night horror movies. Deadman is too good a character to waste on cheap stuff like that.

Now that you've played around with the book for a few months, why not settle down for a while with about three or four really good stories each week instead of giving us three or four good ones and then a couple of "throw aways"? I'd like to see regular appearances of Captain Marvel, Green Lantern, the Martian Manhunter, and Superman. The Secret Six and Blackhawk could be rotated with Nightwing and Catwoman to make this a much more interesting book.

It must take a lot of midnight oil to keep the weekly issues rolling on schedule. I'm glad you seem up to that challenge.

Coy Brown  
622 LaMond Rulie  
Winchester, KY 40391

In regard to your cover artist want list, Coy, I hope you noticed and appreciated last issue's cover by Dick Giordano. As for the rest of your wishes, alas, those talented gentlemen are not slated for any ACW covers (though, Gil Kane did do a Nightwing cover a ways back—you did mean Gil Kane and not Bob, didn't you?).

But by some odd coincidence, many of those artists do figure in the inside of ACW #642, our last weekly issue. That

issue will feature a book-length multi-character crossover adventure, all written by Elliot S. Maggin and drawn by a truly unique combination of artistic talent: Curt Swan with Ty Templeton, Murphy Anderson with Karl Kesel, Gil Kane, Jim Aparo, Steve Ditko with Art Thibert, and Carmine Infantino with Kevin Nowlan—with a cover by Ross Andru and Eric Shanower! Neat, huh?

....

Dear Ed (or is):

Week 26 Review Sheet 26. Be warned—it isn't gonna be pretty.

1) Secret Six—As long as this is here, it'll be number one, unless something better convinces me otherwise. Yo Pasko! You mean to unmask Mockingbird and end 20-odd years of suspense? This better not be a cop out, else your pending candidacy for Best Writer's gonna get sunk by a typewriter filled with Drano—you understand.

2) (tie) Black Canary and Green Lantern—Makes sense, doesn't it? BC (and Green Arrow) paid major dues supporting GL in his own book for the longest time, and after she's established herself as an excellent lead, GL's scripts finally regain the luster lost in a transition from a monthly title where he headlined to a weekly anthology which he also headlines, but has had mostly cheese dip scripts to deal with. Now the two jockey for the number two spot on my personal hit parade.

4) Shazam!—Okay, here's the situation: Captain Nazi asserts himself as a self-chosen leader, once he realizes he has reached Captain Marvel's level. There is a trace of the humanitarian in him (huh?) but that quickly fades. The conclusion that wasn't left some deliberate loose ends for the pending monthly. Once you get around to that, folks, don't drop this plotline in the pea soup fog that dwells in the word processors of all comics writers whose imaginations stagnate after they get too

many commendations to fit their egos. Otherwise, here's hoping the regular series fares better than this did.

5) (tie) Superman and Deadman—One ends, the other staggers on into slumberland. Superman is alternately interesting and boring, changing gears in interest on a rate of once every three weeks or so. Yawn. Let me know when you can give me a week or two where I can learn about this "fellowship" that seems to think Supes ranks up there with God and (shudder) Elvis. Deadman unfortunately was about as interesting as three-week-old kitty litter. Actually, the Peckshaws aren't really bad looking when they're in ghost form. They're really kinda attractive, y'know. Here's hoping that Boston gets to return 'home' to the Hi I Circus next time (with a better artist, yell!).

And as for Jim Burke, a.k.a. T.M. Maple, a.k.a. Skippy La Plume, I thought he was a respectable critic of good taste. Skippy La Plume? Jim, in the words of a famous Hollywood philosopher—OH GROW UP! If you're going to be a Joe Average critic like the rest of us, keep the exits from reality to a minimum now, y'hear?

Until Superman meets the Flintstones.

Jacob Gilbert  
118 4th Street Apt. 1  
Troy, NY 12180

No plans for Supes to hook up with that modern stone-age family, Jacob. Time travel is something currently out of the big guy's reach. Yogi Bear now is a possibility.

NEXT ISSUE: Be back here in seven for more from Superman, Phantom Lady, Hero Hotline, Wild Dog, Speedy, and The Demon. All this AND a Demon cover, by Jack Kirby and Terry Austin. Beat that! See you then, don't be late or we'll start without you!

Brian Augustyn







NO SARAH GUERREHART  
WASN'T IN ANY OF THE FLES  
I SAW ON DADDY'S DESK.  
BUT HIS CLUB AND ITS  
MANAGER WAS ALL OVER  
THE PLACE

I SURE HOPE  
THE COSTUME  
WORKS - INCLUDING  
YOUR LASER  
CANNICKS!

YEAH, I KNOW...  
BUT AT LEAST THEY  
WON'T BE LOOKING  
AT MY FACE

GOTTA  
HANG UP  
BYE

I'M SORRY I ~~CANNOT~~  
LET YOU IN AT THIS  
TIME.

I CAN PUT  
GLITTER IN MY HAIR.  
CAN I GET IN IF I  
PUT GLITTER IN  
MY HAIR?



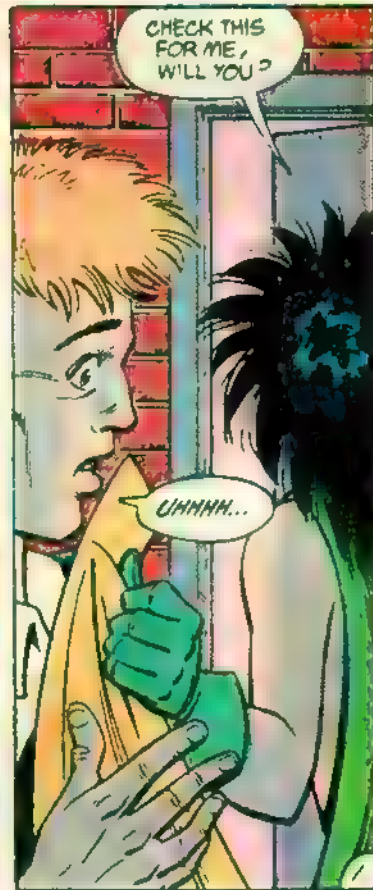
LET US  
IN. IT'S  
WORTH A  
FEW  
TOUS!

I'M  
SCARRY



HOW ABOUT LETTING  
ME IN, BIG GUY?

I'M SORRY, I  
CANNOT... OF COURSE,  
MA'AM... IMMEDIATELY!



CHECK THIS  
FOR ME,  
WILL YOU?

UHHHH...



WOOOOO!  
WHO IS  
SHE!

IS SHE  
HOT, OR  
WHAT?

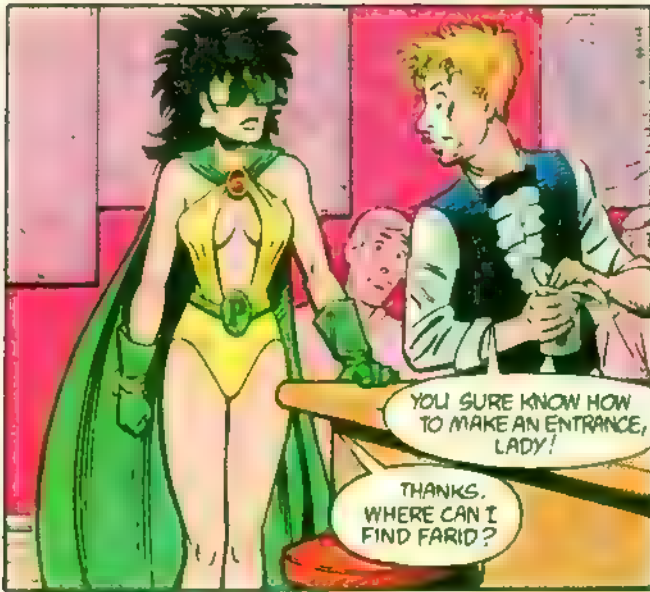
DELAMAIN...  
EXTRA PALE

## PHANTOM LADY

LEN STRAZEWSKI  
writer  
CHUCK AUSTEN  
penciller  
GARY MARTIN  
inker  
JOHN COSTANZA  
letterer  
GLENN WHITMORE  
colorist  
MARK WAID  
editor

# LUCK BE A LADY





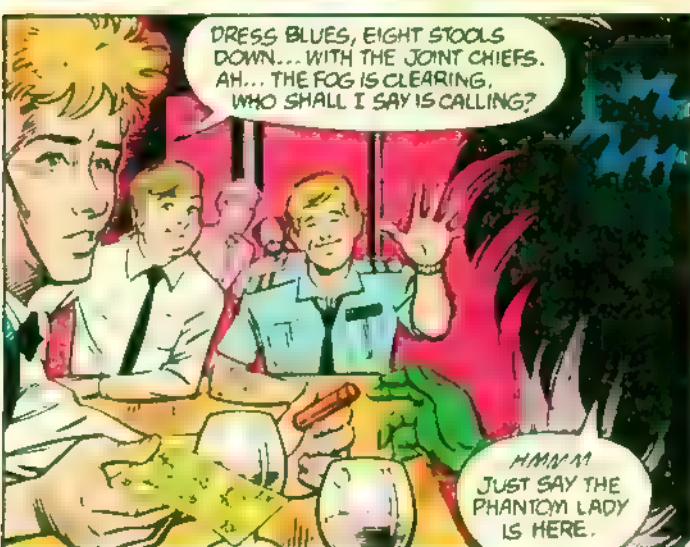
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE, LADY!

THANKS. WHERE CAN I FIND FARID?



I DON'T KNOW ANY FARID. THIS IS FROM THE SUIT AT THE END OF THE BAR. HE'S A SENATE AIDE.

MEMORY LOSS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE? TRY SOME VITAMIN C.

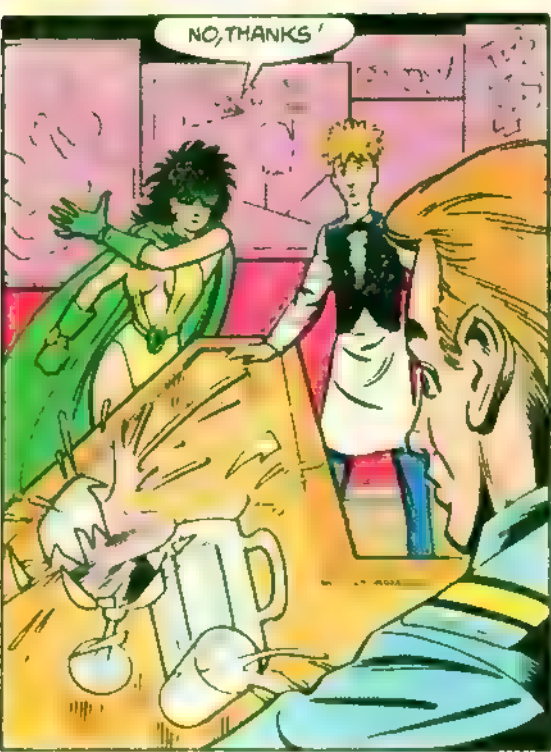


DRESS BLUES, EIGHT STOOLS DOWN... WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS. AH... THE FOG IS CLEARING. WHO SHALL I SAY IS CALLING?

HMM... JUST SAY THE PHANTOM LADY IS HERE.



NEXT TO THE BLUES... CONGRESS MAN ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. YOU GOT IT.. THE PHANTOM LADY FOR MR FARID.



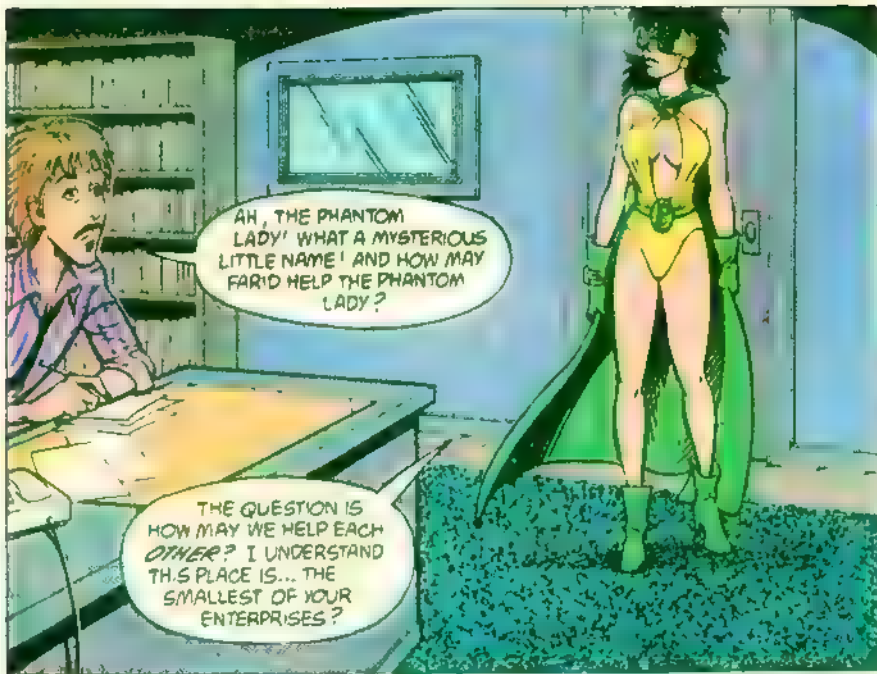
NO, THANKS!



WHO IS SHE?

DAMN! THAT WAS PURE STUFF. RIGHT FROM THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH!





AH, THE PHANTOM LADY! WHAT A MYSTERIOUS LITTLE NAME! AND HOW MAY FARID HELP THE PHANTOM LADY?

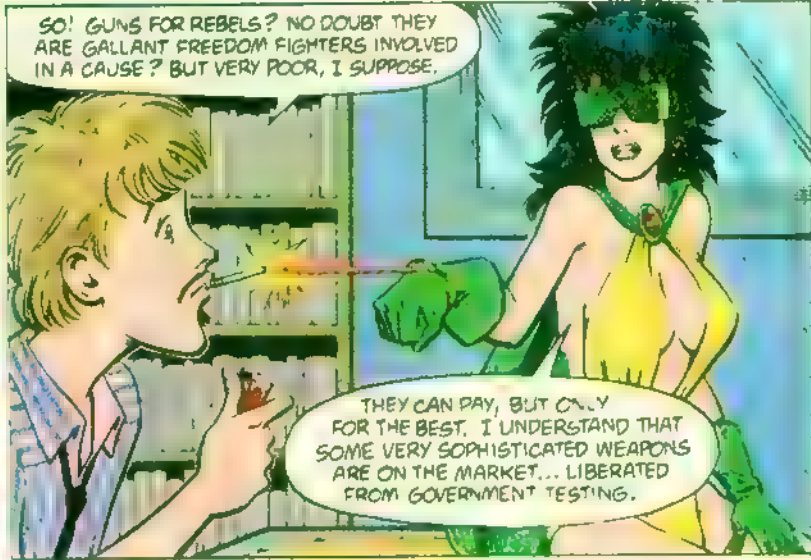
THE QUESTION IS HOW MAY WE HELP EACH OTHER? I UNDERSTAND THIS PLACE IS... THE SMALLEST OF YOUR ENTERPRISES?



WE MUST DIVERSIFY IF ONE EXPECTS ASSETS TO GROW. COMMODITIES PERHAPS FOR THE YOUNG LADY?

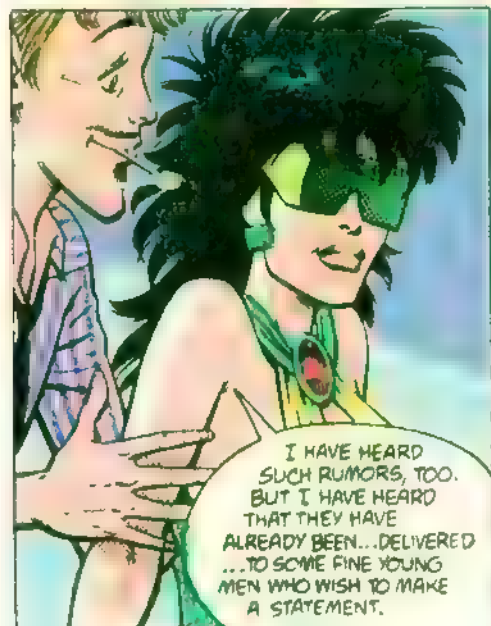


NO DRUGS. I HAVE OVERSEAS CLIENTS WHO REQUIRE OUTFITTING RIFLES, MOBILE MISSILES ARMOR



SO! GUNS FOR REBELS? NO DOUBT THEY ARE GALLANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS INVOLVED IN A CAUSE? BUT VERY POOR, I SUPPOSE.

THEY CAN PAY, BUT ONLY FOR THE BEST. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME VERY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ARE ON THE MARKET... LIBERATED FROM GOVERNMENT TESTING.



I HAVE HEARD SUCH RUMORS, TOO. BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN... DELIVERED ... TO SOME FINE YOUNG MEN WHO WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

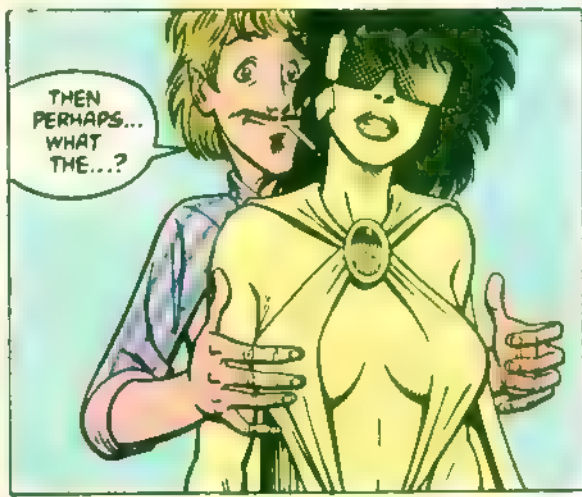
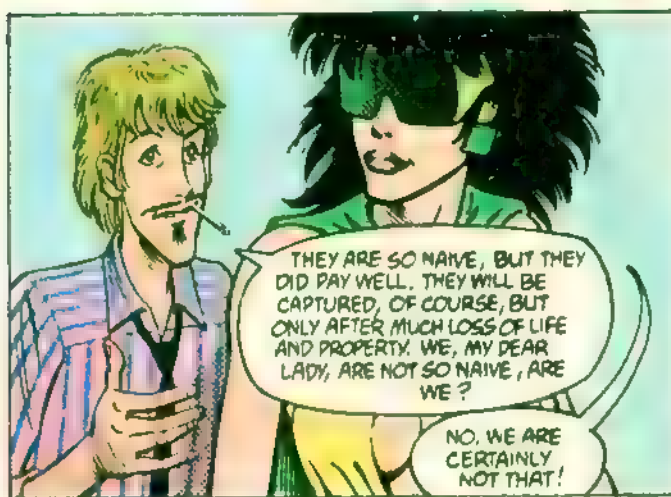
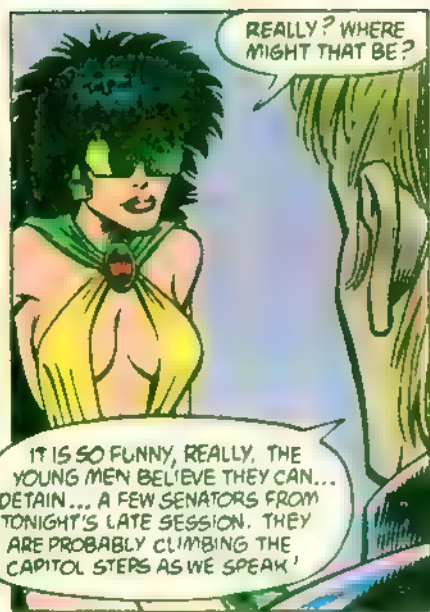


OH? CANNOT THEY BE RETURNED FOR A PRICE? GUERREHART WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY.

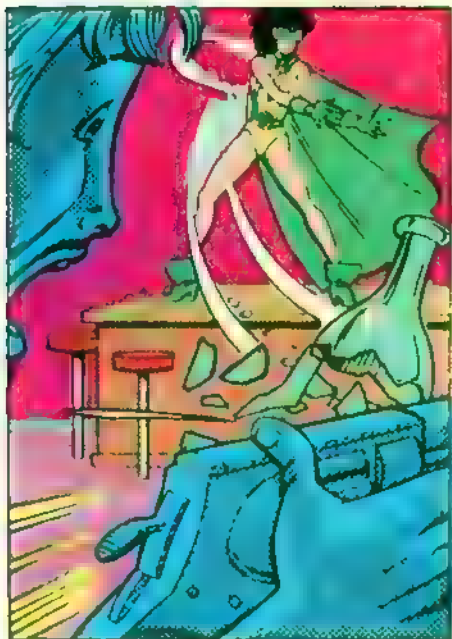
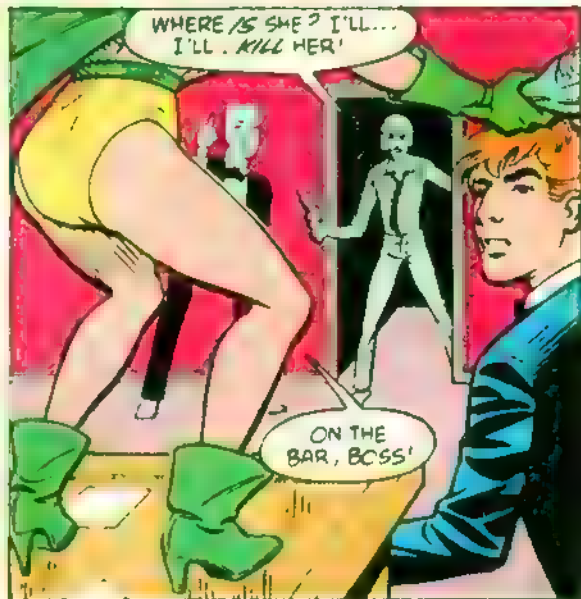
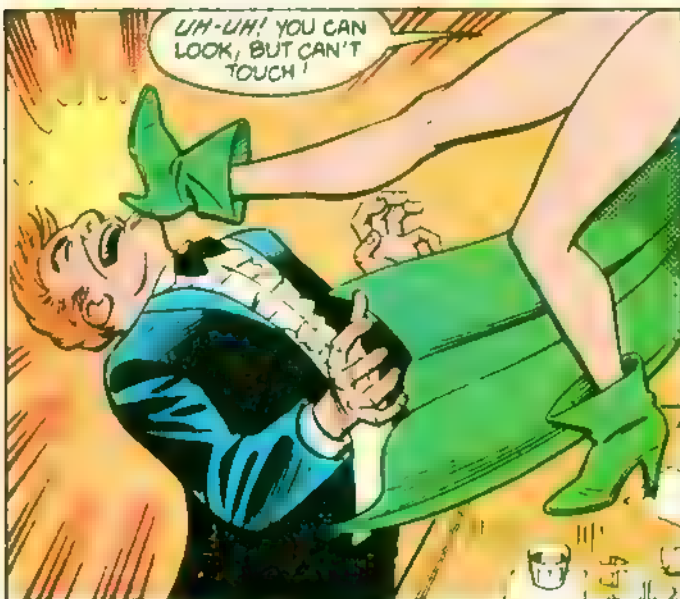


GUERREHART? ER... I DON'T KNOW THE NAME BUT ANY REASONABLE MAN KNOWS THAT IN THIS BUSINESS... ALL SALES ARE FINAL

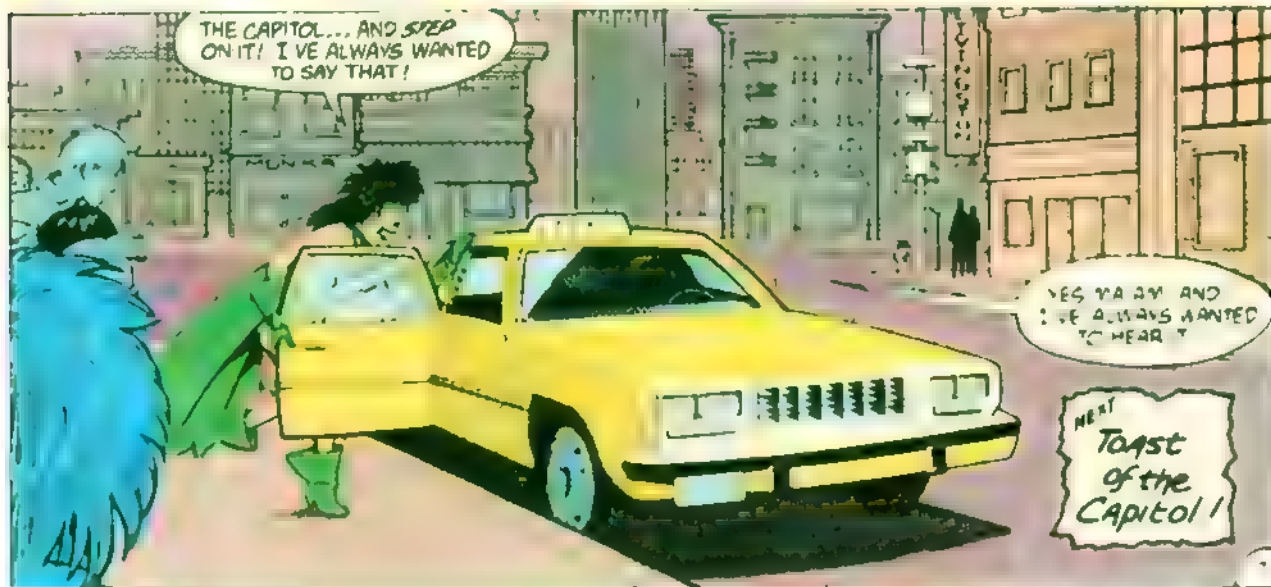
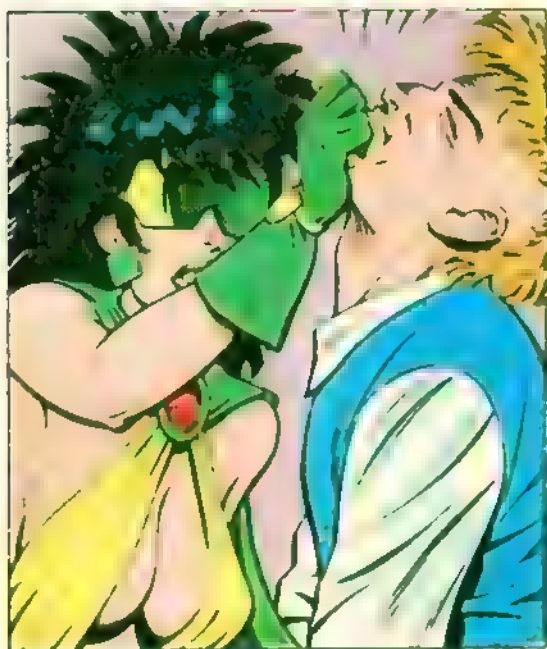
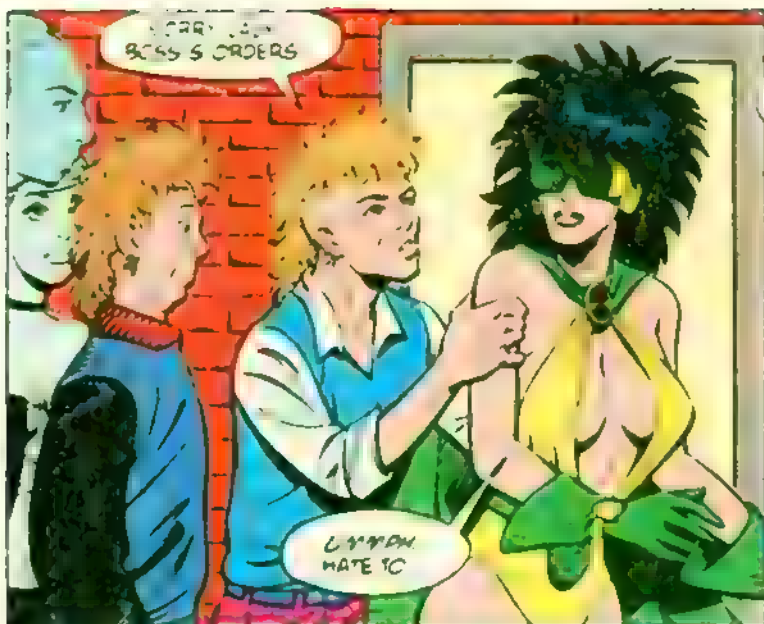














# WILD DOG™



# CRACK UP

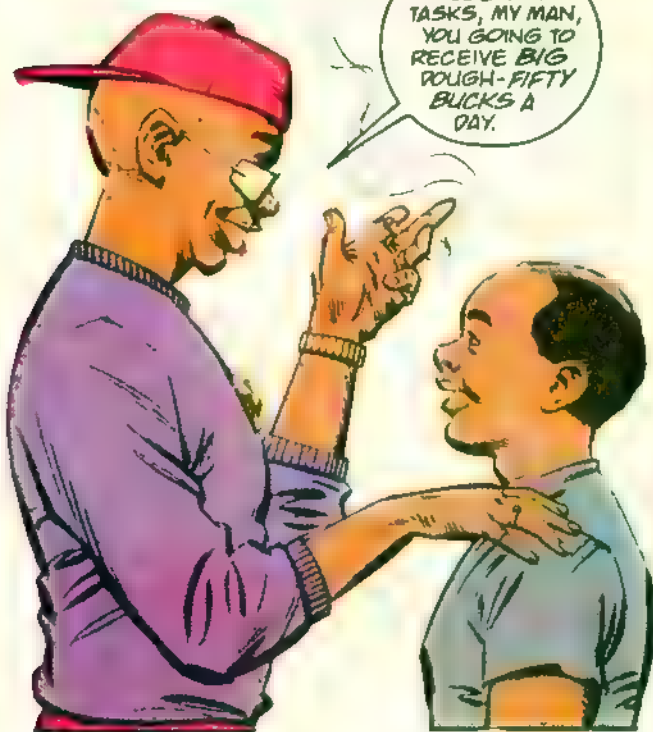
MAX COLLINS      TERRY BEATTY  
WRITER • CO-CREATORS • PENCILLER  
JOHN NYBERG      CARL GAFFORD  
INKER      COLORIST  
TIM HARKINS      BRIAN AUGUSTYN  
LETTERER      EDITOR

## CHAPTER TWO EDSY MONEY

ALL YA GOTTA  
DO, GEORGIE, IS  
PLAY LOOKOUT FOR  
THE HOMEBOYS INSIDE.  
WATCH FOR COPS, DO  
FOOD RUNS, LIKE  
THAT.

AND FOR  
THESE TINY  
TASKS, MY MAN,  
YOU GOING TO  
RECEIVE BIG  
ROUGH-FIFTY  
BUCKS A  
DAY.

"NOW DON'T THAT BEAT THAT CHUMP CHANGE  
YOU WAS MAKIN' WITH THAT SWEEP-UP JOB  
AT THE GARAGE?"





I GOTTA STOP OVER  
AND QUIT THAT JOB,  
WILLIE - DON'T WANT TO  
LEAVE MR. WHEELER  
WONDERING WHERE  
I AM.

VERY  
RESPONSIBLE  
ATTITUDE, GEORGIE.  
I LIKE THAT YOU  
GOIN' TO MAKE  
ONE FINE  
BUSINESSMAN.

YOU'RE GOIN' TO  
NEED WHEELS,  
WILLIE.

GET  
YOURSELF  
A BIKE

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG  
THE MINUTE I SAW GEORGIE  
GLIDE UP ON THAT SHINY NEW BIKE

I DON'T  
MEAN TO LET  
YA DOWN, MR.  
WHEELER

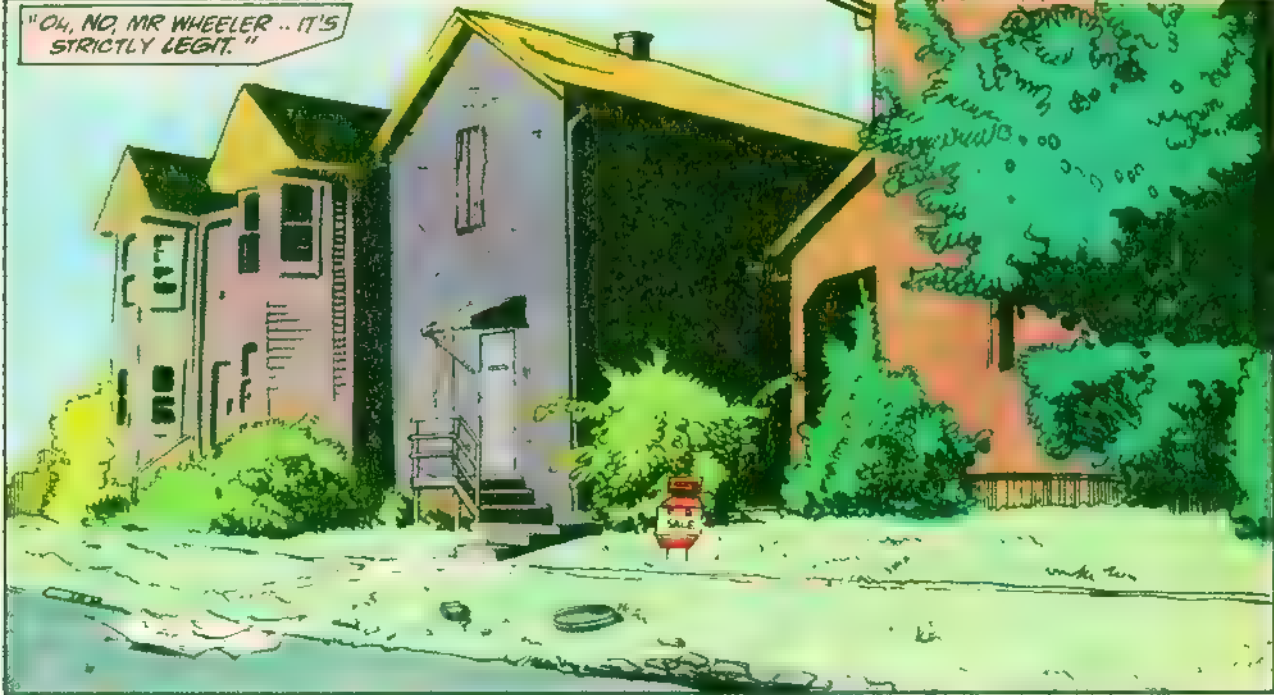
WELL, GEORGIE, IF YOU  
FOUND A BETTER JOB, YOU  
FOUND A BETTER JOB  
AND THAT'S THAT.

YOU WOULDN'T  
GET INVOLVED IN  
ANYTHING SHADY,  
WOULD YOU, SON?

**Wheeler**  
AUTO REPAIR  
&  
CUSTOM!



"OH, NO, MR WHEELER... IT'S STRICTLY LEGIT."



WHILE --

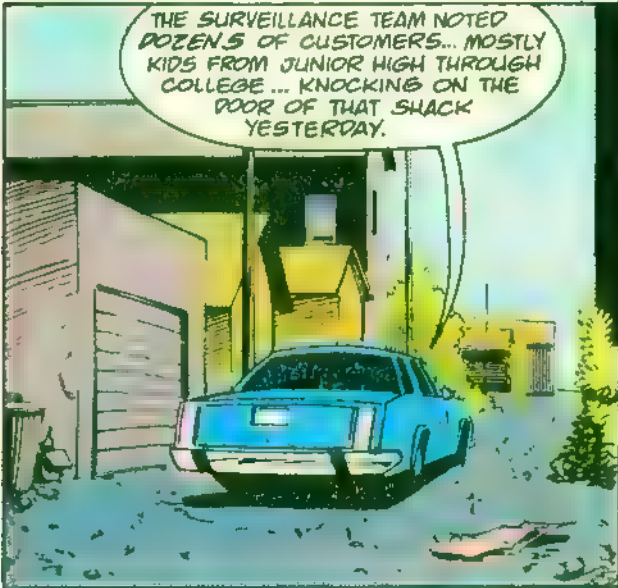
THAT'S THE PLACE. JUST GO BY SLOWLY, THEN CUT UP THE ALLEY... I WANT YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE BACK



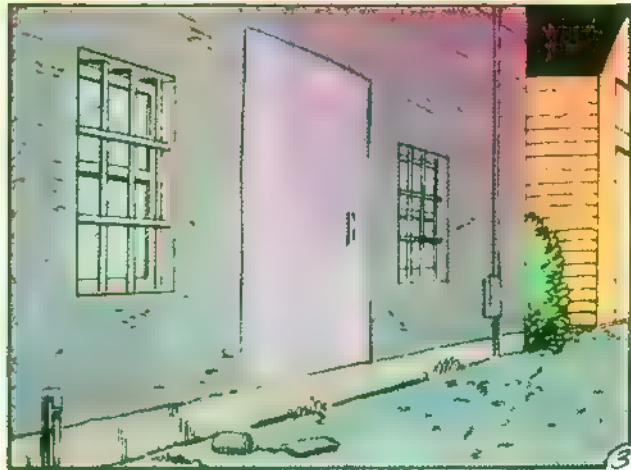
LOOKS DESERTED TO ME, LIEUTENANT.



THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM NOTED DOZENS OF CUSTOMERS... MOSTLY KIDS FROM JUNIOR HIGH THROUGH COLLEGE... KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF THAT SHACK YESTERDAY.

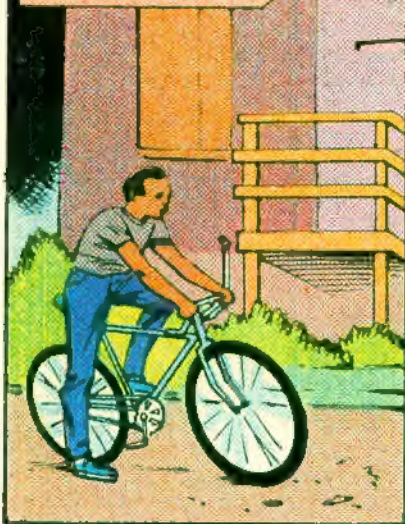


"TEEN DEALERS SIT INSIDE AND PEDdle DRUGS THROUGH THE SPEAKEASY SLOT IN THE FRONT DOOR. WE THINK SOME OF THESE KIDS ARE DAMN NEAR PRISONERS... THOSE BARS KEEP 'EM IN, AS WELL AS KEEPING INTERLOPERS OUT"





"LET'S ROUND UP THE TEAM," SAYS LT. ANDY FLINT. "TIME TO PUT THIS COTTAGE INDUSTRY OUT OF BUSINESS."



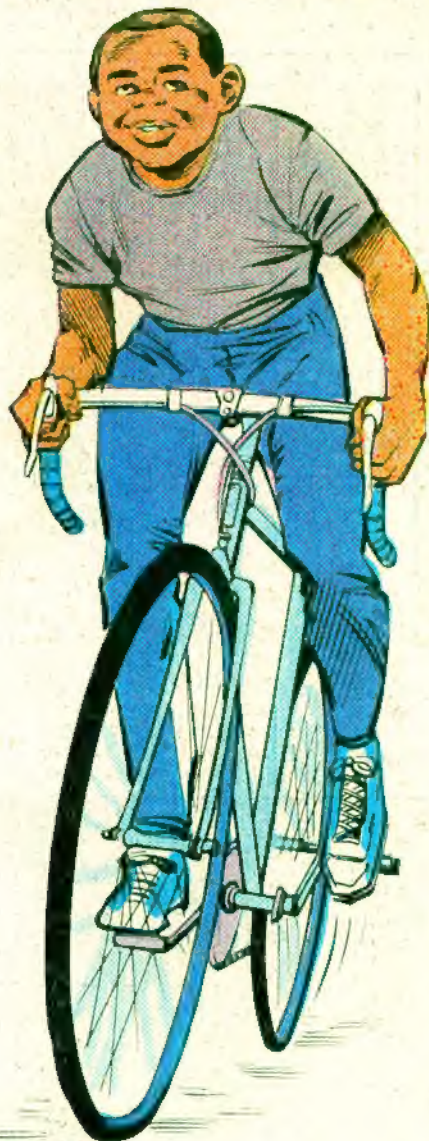
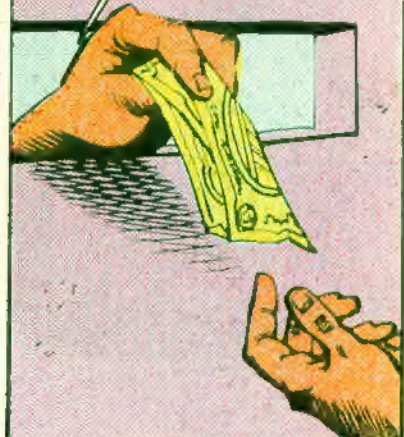
I'M HERE. WHERE'S WILLIE?

HE DON'T WORK HERE. HE WORKS THE STREET. ALSO, HE'S OUR BOSS, LIKE I'M YOURS.

OKAY, THEN--WHAT DO I DO?



WE NEED FOOD. GET SOME BURGERS AND FRIES.



WE'LL GO IN THE FRONT AND BACK SIMULTANEOUSLY. WE WANT TO AVOID A FIRE FIGHT. THESE ARE KIDS...WE WANT TO TAKE 'EM DOWN CLEAN AND ALIVE. UNDERSTOOD?

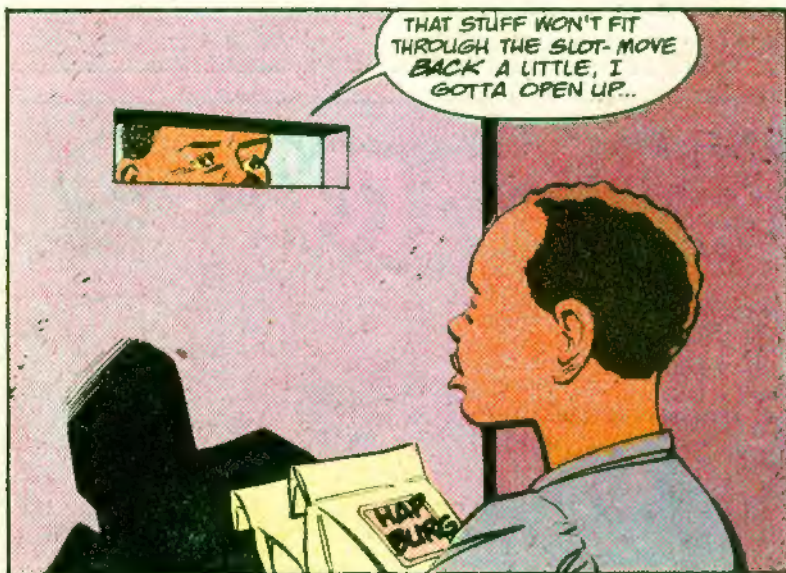




ON THE OTHER HAND... DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HOW DANGEROUS THESE KIDS MIGHT BE... THEY MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE FIRE POWER...



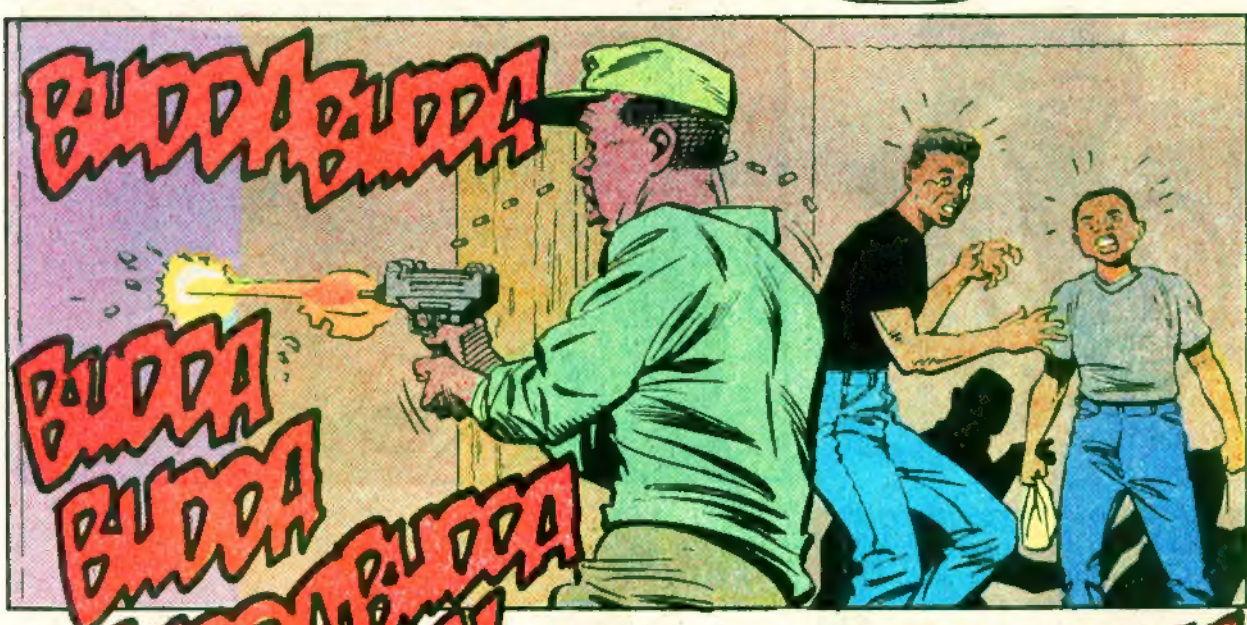
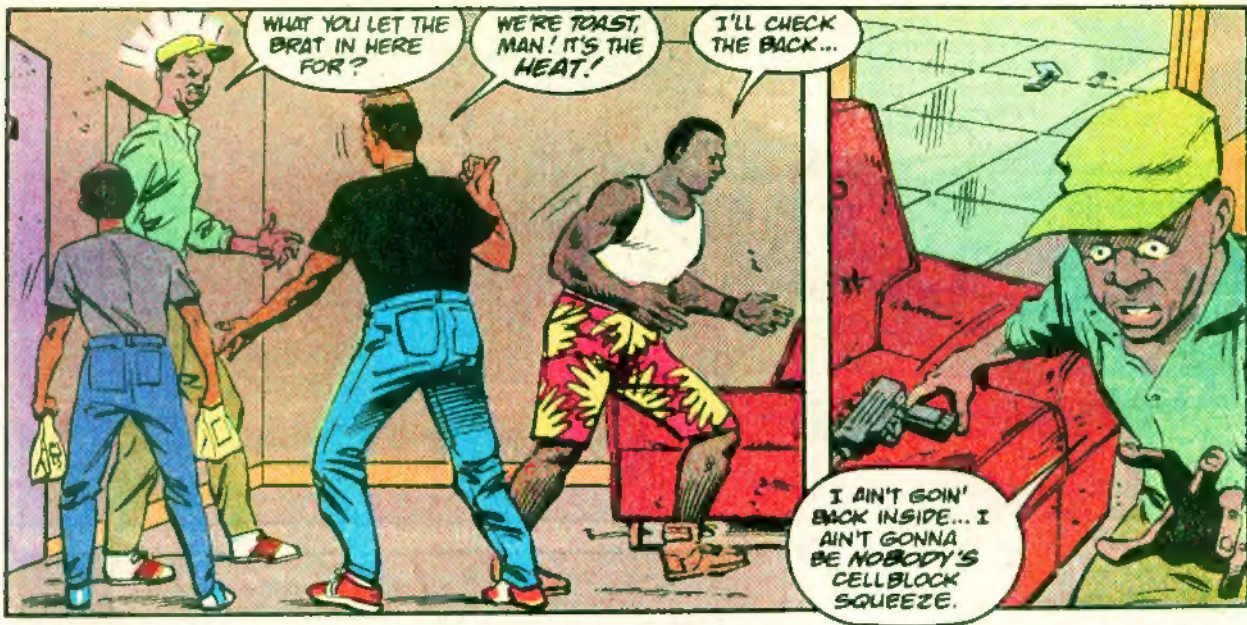
THAT STUFF WON'T FIT THROUGH THE SLOT- MOVE BACK A LITTLE, I GOTTA OPEN UP...



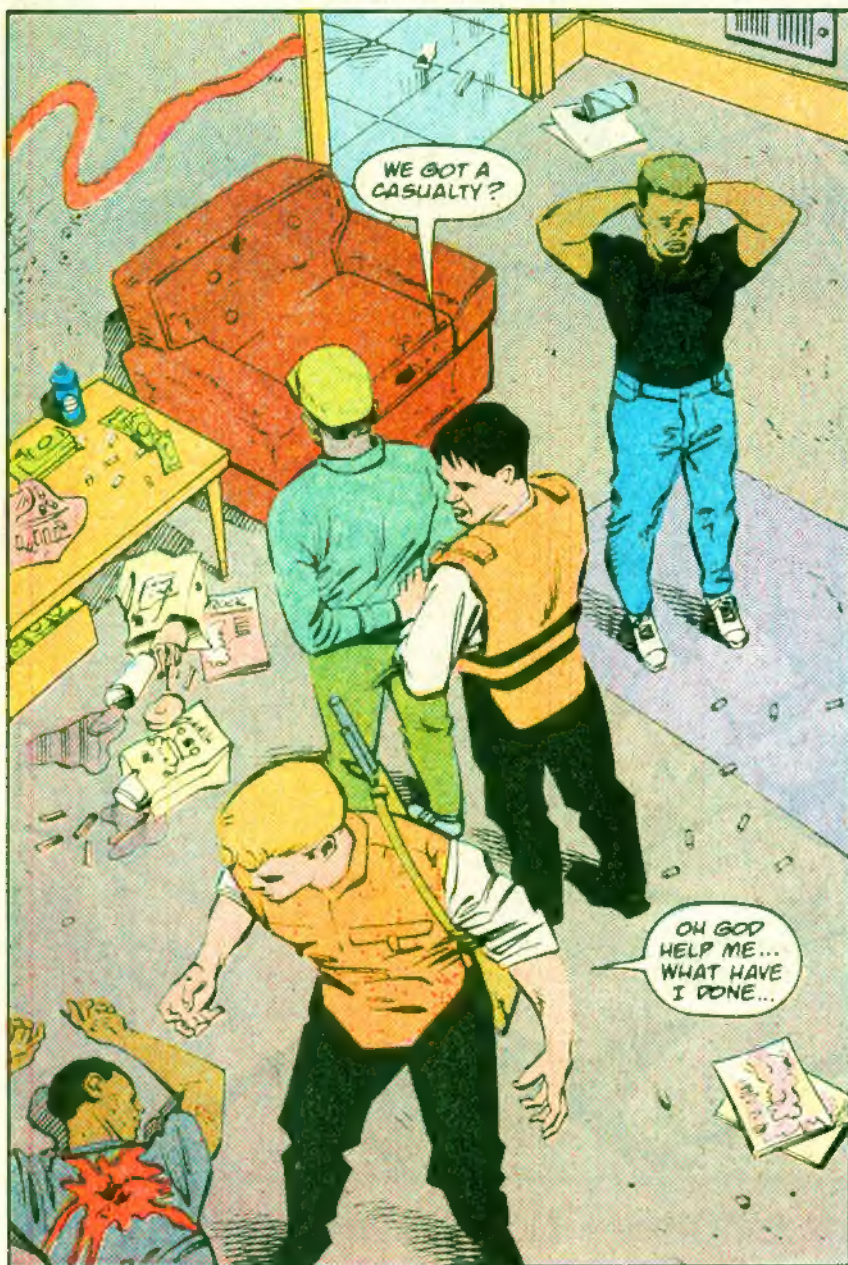
IT'S THE COPS! GET INSIDE, YOU LITTLE...











TO BE CONTINUED-NEXT WEEK